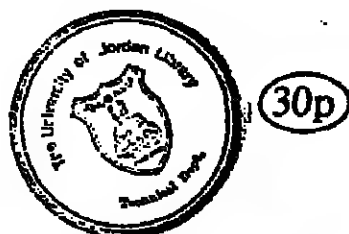


rhythm

Minister on the...
kas



LAST WEEK'S AVERAGE DAILY SALE 437,000
No 63,265

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15 1988

Flickering signal highlights BR 'skill shortage'



Maurice Holmes: If anything needs to be done it will be done immediately.

By Roland Rudd and Philip Webster
A skills shortage which is crippling British Rail has been highlighted by the Clapham Junction disaster, which killed 33 people.
As British Rail began its own inquiry into the triple train crash yesterday, senior trade union leaders said the company must regret the controversial pay package they imposed on 5,000 engineers responsible for maintenance of telecommunication and signals equipment.
The inquiry is expected to find that BR staff, called out on the night before the tragedy, failed to locate the signal fault which is being blamed for the crash.
Union leaders believe the package did nothing to alleviate low morale and did not go far enough to meet the discrepancies between the basic salary of a BR technician at £8,661 a year compared with the £11,158 salary of a British Telecom technician in a similar grade.
Lower down the grading structure a BR assistant technician is on a salary of £5,443 compared with the

equivalent BT salary of £8,189. One of British Rail's arguments defending its lower salary structures is that pay is heavily boosted by overtime, but unions refuse to accept this claiming that longer working hours can themselves be a danger factor.
Mr Jimmy Knapp, the general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said: "The retention of key staff is now reaching crisis proportions in many parts of the country. BR has to tackle the fundamental problem of uncompetitive basic rates of pay and long hours if we are to continue to recruit and retain staff." The management

believed it was doing that in introducing allowances for nearly 20,000 staff who work shifts and who already qualified for irregular and unsocial hours payments.
Mr Neil Milligan, the general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, has welcomed proposals to increase the London area allowance by £10 a week for train drivers and £1,200 a year for signal and telecommunication staff. He said, however, that the "belated effort to recruit and retain staff" will not solve the crisis immediately.
"Unfortunately it will be a long time before British Rail have the essentially skilled staff, drivers, signal and telegraph staff, all trained and operational."
Labour leaders backed the unions yesterday with Mr Neil Kinnock calling for a £210 million injection by the Government for changes designed to reduce overcrowding on Inter-City and Network South-East. Large numbers of passengers packed into carriages would make any crash "particularly devastating", he said

in a letter to Mrs Thatcher. "The question of what the Government is doing to reduce overcrowding on commuter trains is given a sudden and horrific urgency by Monday's appalling accident," he wrote.
He also called for action to ease the "chronic staff shortages" afflicting BR, which was short of 7,500 workers throughout Britain. "When there is such widespread concern, when the problems are so clearly identified and the remedies so urgently needed, I hope you will agree that investment in improvement and in staff must be made as a matter of priority," he told the Prime Minister.
At the same time Mr John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, urged that the Clapham inquiry should look into the financing of British Rail.
In a letter to Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Transport, he wrote: "I am concerned that the public inquiry... should cover all aspects of passenger safety on Network South-East. This would include financing, staffing levels, the

problem of overcrowding and congestion and whether the overall responsibility for safety on the railways should be transferred from the Department of Transport to an independent body.
Among the first witnesses at yesterday's British Rail inquiry was Mr Alex McClymoot, the driver who had stopped to use a trackside telephone to report a signal fault when a crowded express ploughed into the back of his stationary train.
The inquiry panel, headed by Mr Maurice Holmes, BR's safety director, will question train crews about signals and braking. "If the inquiry reveals that anything urgent needs to be done, it will be done immediately," said a BR spokesman.
A message of sympathy and condolences was sent to Mrs Thatcher yesterday by President Gorbachov. Amid the tragedy of the Armenia earthquake, he said: "We are taking particularly close to our hearts the pain and suffering of others and feeling acutely the significance of human solidarity."

ON SATURDAY IN COLOUR

Shooting the war



On September 3, 1939, at 11am, Britain declared war on Germany. Next year is the 50th anniversary of that momentous event, and the film and television industries do not intend to let it go unmarked.

In Hollywood, Robert Mitchum and a cast of thousands are making *War and Remembrance*. In Britain countless productions are in hand, each requiring not only an accurate script but also authentic uniforms, vehicles and firearms. How do they get them? On Saturday, in colour, *The Times* looks at the preparations for war.

Plus . . .

- Keeping up the castle: how does the aristocracy feel about Nicholas Ridley?
- In search of Santa: *The Times* scours Scandinavia for the real Father Christmas.
- On other pages: Clive Davis on Nat King Cole; Bryan Appleyard on Cyprus; Jonathan Meades on restaurants; Jane MacQuitty on wine; Frances Bissell, *The Times* critic; and Deyan Sudjic on the perfect cup of coffee.

WIN £52,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

Yesterday's £4,000 daily prize was shared between three winners (see page 3). Today's Portfolio Accumulator stands at £52,000. Prices: page 29

Blunt speaking by ministers at stormy six-hour Belfast meeting

Angry King attacks Irish on extradition

- Ministers confirmed their attack on the Irish Government over its refusal to extradite Father Patrick Ryan
- Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, said the reasons given for the decision were "regrettably offensive"
- Mr Tom King, the Northern Ireland Secretary, formally requested Dublin to review its extradition law
- Irish ministers maintained that the case involving Father Ryan was unique and would not be repeated

By Robin Oakley, Richard Ford and Jamie Dettmer

British ministers kept up a barrage of criticism of the Irish authorities' refusal to extradite Father Patrick Ryan yesterday, and called for changes in Ireland's extradition law.

In the Commons, Sir

Policemen shot in post raid

By Stewart Tendler and Robin Young

Two London policemen and two armed robbers were wounded last night in an exchange of shots when Flying Squad detectives challenged a gang raiding a west London sub post office.

The shooting took place after Flying Squad officers investigating a series of robberies in west London, took up positions round a sub post office in Old Oak Common Lane, Acton. Just after 5pm five men arrived and launched the raid.

The staff sounded the alarm and police confronted the raiders. A flurry of shots rang out in the street leaving a detective-sergeant and a detective-constable wounded.

One of the wounded policemen was shot in the buttocks and the second received a wound to his left hand. The two armed robbers were not said to be seriously wounded. Detectives were last night searching for a fifth member of the gang who escaped.

Cricket crisis

English cricket was plunged into a new political crisis when Pakistan announced its withdrawal from a one-day international series in New Zealand because of the South African connections of some England players. Page 42

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Mr King, left, and Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, centre, greeting Mr Collins and Mr Lenihan.

£500,000 campaign to save the egg

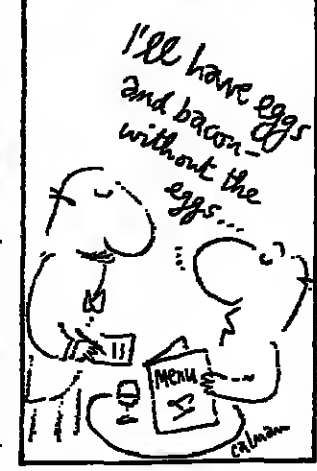
By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A £500,000 advertising campaign funded by the Government will be launched tomorrow to restore public confidence in the safety of eating eggs.

The advertisement, issued jointly by the Department of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, will be carried for three days in national daily and Sunday newspapers, and in leading regional newspapers.

It is based on advice from the Government's Chief Medical Officer, Sir Donald Acheson. But there were few signs that the wording, agreed after the best part of three days of fractious negotiations between the two departments and involving the Prime Minister, will satisfy farmers facing financial ruin or Conservative MPs representing rural seats, who have blamed the salmonella scare on Mrs Edwina Currie, the Under Secretary of State for Health.

Dr David Clark, Labour's chief agriculture spokesman, said that Mrs Currie's remark that most egg production was concentrated in the south of England was "a gross distortion of the facts".
Continued on page 24, col 1



US urges pull-out by Israelis

By Philip Jacobson in Geneva and Andrew McEwen in London

General Vernon Walters, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, yesterday urged Israel to face up to its eventual need to pull out from the occupied territories.

In a speech which implicitly marked the limits of Washington's support for Pressure on US Peres switch.

Jerusalem, he told the UN special session in Geneva: "For Israel, the choice is clear, albeit difficult. In order to achieve the security it deserves and requires, Israel must face up to the need for withdrawal from the occupied territories and to the need to accommodate legitimate Palestinian political rights."
Continued on page 24, col 6

Genetic engineering offers cure for haemophilia

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A crucial discovery by researchers in genetic engineering at the National Institute for Medical Research, at Mill Hill, in north London, means that a cure for the main inherited blood disorders, such as haemophilia, should be possible within five years.
The discovery, in the most controversial area of medical research, gene replacement therapy, will allow genes made artificially in the laboratory to be inserted into humans to correct inherited illnesses.
Giving details of the research yesterday, Dr Dai Rees, secretary of the Medical Research Council, said the treatment would apply to most blood disorders caused by inherited defects. Haemophilia, the most preva-

lent inherited defect in Britain, affects 5,000 people, but other life-threatening conditions involving abnormal blood cells, such as thalassaemia and sickle-cell anaemia, affect hundreds of thousands of people world-wide.
The breakthrough, made by a team working with Dr Frank Grosveld, should allow these conditions to be corrected by inserting the appropriate purified artificial gene into the bone marrow, where blood is made.
After years of research, the discovery came eventually from the study of just one thalassaemia sufferer.
Children who inherit the condition have severe anaemia because they can not make blood correctly. The abnormality appears in haemoglobin, the colouring substance in red blood

cells which is also essential for carrying oxygen to the body.
Dr Grosveld's group traced the basic fault to part of the haemoglobin molecule, the globin, or protein part. Using the latest advances in genetic engineering, they isolated from healthy cells the gene that controlled the production of globin, then devised a method to make copies of the pure gene. The artificially produced genes were inserted into mice, which thereupon produced pure human globin in their red blood cells.
The scientists found that artificially produced genes would manufacture healthy globin no matter where they were inserted in the genetic material of mice. The discovery of this "position independence" when transplant-

ing genes is the advance that is crucial for gene therapy.
While bone-marrow implants should be technically possible in three to five years, there were ethical issues to be resolved, Dr Rees said. A week ago, the United States Government refused permission for an experiment by Dr W. French Anderson, head of haematology at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which would have put the first artificial gene into humans.
The American experiment was intended as a "dry run" in which the replacement gene would have had no therapeutic value but was to serve as a test marker in special cells that researchers had found to be effective against advanced cases of cancer.



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DISASTER AT CLAPHAM JUNCTION

Names of train crash victims released

City banker and theatre technician among the dead

A senior City figure, a young banking high-flyer and a legal secretary were among the morning commuters who were killed in the train crash near Clapham Junction.

The list of the dead was issued yesterday as work colleagues, friends and relatives spoke of the last moments they had seen them alive.

Those killed included Alan Wren, aged 55, an executive director of the Standard Chartered Bank in Bishopsgate, London, who was also an advisor to the Ministry of Trade. Mr Wren, described by colleagues as "an extraordinarily pleasant and capable guy" had risen over 33 years' service to become responsible for the bank's commercial banking operations in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and southern Asia.

On Monday he joined the train from Bournemouth after spending the weekend with his wife Heather at their Dorset home. He leaves three sons.

The theatre lost one of its most accomplished technicians. Mike Newman, aged 52, from Parkstone, Bournemouth, dubbed the "man who brought the West End to light" was responsible for many spectacular designs on hoardings in front of dozens of West End theatres, including the musicals *Phantom of the Opera*, *Singing in the Rain* and *Cats*. They were acknowledged as the best in the country in his field.

Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber said last night: "Everybody at

the Really Useful Group was very shocked to hear of the death of Michael. His abilities will be greatly missed by us all."

One of the Civil Servants who died was Christopher Molesworth, aged 37, who had wanted to get to work early for an important meeting. He normally caught a later train. He leaves a wife, Annette, aged 31, and two children.

Stephen Loader, aged 34, another victim, was a personnel manager with the Midland Bank, where colleagues yesterday said he had a highly promising career.

He lived in Southampton with his wife Gillian, aged 31, and their two children aged six and three. Mr Loader, an Oxford graduate, always sat in the front of the London-bound express, which he boarded in Winchester.

Everett Lindsay, another Civil Servant, was one of a number of commuters who formed their own club on the London train. He was identified by his wife Winifred, who was being comforted by relatives at their home in Bournemouth.

One of the women to die was Jane Aubin, aged 26, who had made the journey after a weekend visit to her family in Southampton. She worked as a secretary in the legal department for Sbell in London.

William Webb, aged 39, a finance controller for a leading London company, died after setting off from Brockenhurst station. Despite the tragedy his wife Naila, a chartered accountant, went ahead at their home in Sandy Down, near Brockenhurst, with their nine-year-old daughter's birthday party on Tuesday.

Christine Clark, aged 37, from West End, near Southampton, Hampshire, lost her husband Glenn, a computer contractor.

David Moore, aged 45, a marketing business analyst, from Ashurst near Southampton, was another victim. His wife Joan and daughter Susan had to wait for 30 hours before his death was confirmed.

John Rolls, aged 54, the driver of the Bournemouth to

Waterloo train who died, had served on British Railways for more than 30 years. Mr John Curley, Southampton area manager for British Railways said that Mr Rolls, of Ashbridge Gardens, Bournemouth, "was one of the best drivers we had at Bournemouth".

The 13 victims of the Clapham rail crash who have been positively identified were named by police as:

Romano, Faicini, 51, of Bourne Avenue, Wimborne, Dorset; Michelle Boyce, 46, of Burbeck Heights, Mount Road, Lower Parkstone, Poole, Dorset; Everett Lindsay, 50, of Bourne Valley Road, Branksome, Poole; Theresa Moore, 28, of Claremont Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset; Arthur Crook, 48, of Beechway, Basingstoke, Hampshire; John Barratt, 35, of Clerkenwell Road, Clerkenwell.

Errol Taylor, 41, of Cherry Hill Grove, Poole; Norman Dalrymple, of Orpen Road, Sholing, Southampton; William Webb, 39, of Lower Sandy Down Lane, Bursledon, Lymington, Hampshire; Steven Loader, 32, of Randle Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire; Christopher Molesworth, 37, of Battery Road North, Winchester, Hampshire; Glen Clarke, 32, of Beacon Road, West End, Southampton; and Alma Smith, of Torney Grove, North Baddesley, Southampton.

The other 20 victims have been believed to be named as follows:

Edna Hannibal, Beverly Niven, Geoffrey Hartwell, Jane Aubin, Alison McGregor, Clive Atfield, David Thomas, James Beasant, Gillian Allen, Paul Hadfield, Paul Perry-Lewis, Joseph Martin, Michael Newman, Stephen Hopkins, David Moore, Tracey Stevens, Timothy Burgess, Alan Wren, Brian Dennison and John Rolls.



Mrs Christine Clark, with her husband Glenn who died (top); Alan Wren (above left) a director of the Standard Chartered Bank, and Michael Newman, a theatre designer.

Damages to exceed total for Tube fire

By Staff Reporters

Total compensation sought for victims of the Clapham Junction disaster and their families is likely to be many times greater than the total of awards arising out of the King's Cross fire.

A key factor in the size of payments will be the high number of family breadwinners who died or were injured on the train.

British Rail could face a £10 million compensation bill. Among the high earners who died at Clapham were Mr Michael Newman, aged 52, the West End theatre set designer, Mr Bill Webb, aged 39, a finance controller, and Alan Wren, an executive of Standard Chartered Bank.

Compensation for dependants will vary enormously depending on income, age and family circumstances:

● The widow of a man aged 28 with two young children who was earning £100,000 a year is likely to receive £1,096,000 compensation

● The widow of a man aged 40 with two children earning £30,000 might receive £185,000

● The widow of a man aged 52 with two teenage children earning £20,000 should receive £185,000

● The widow of an unemployed man aged 60, who was receiving supplementary benefit before his death, could expect no more than £3,500.

Mr Ian Walker, a solicitor who has been asked to act for at least two families, said: "It is a bit difficult to put a precise figure on the compensation for individual victims which we shall be seeking".

He said he was hopeful after British Rail's swift acceptance of responsibility for Monday's crash that negotiations could secure larger bereavement amounts than the £7,500 paid after King's Cross and also a much higher level for damages.

One feature of the lawyers' negotiations with British Rail would be whether passengers had died because carriages were over-full. He said: "It may be relevant if it can be shown that people would not have died if the train had been less crowded".

The man guiding the victims back to health

By Paul Valley

In largely subdued wards, a team led by Dr Tom Burns, consultant liaison psychiatrist at St George's Hospital, Tooting, south London, made their first approach yesterday to some of the 39 victims of the Clapham disaster.

For those who are marked, Dr Burns said it was crucial to help them to come to terms with their injuries. "People are incredibly varied and the extent to which physical injury is seen as a loss varies enormously."

"It will be dealt with by comforting and sharing and getting the patients to accept it."

Dr Burns, aged 42, and his team will also be offering help, if needed, to the emergency services.

In Sweden, he said, the "Superman Syndrome" had been coined for fire

fighters thinking they should be able to cope with all emotions. Even they have limits.

Until last Monday, Dr Burns had been largely involved with counselling victims of car crashes. The Clapham disaster was the biggest incident he will have handled.

His unit became involved in St George's Emergency Plan, which came into force only last week, and he said he was surprised at how well staff had coped. "I had anticipated that they would be far more fraught."

Six social workers will be available to patients on the wards and Dr Burns and three fellow psychiatrists — Dr Sheila Hollins, Dr Bill Travers, and Dr Hook — hope to see all patients either prior to discharge or if the nursing staff asks for them.

Dr Deborah Hutchinson will be available specifically to Emanuel

School, in Wandsworth, close to the scene of the crash. Some boys saw the collision and even helped survivors and may suffer delayed reactions.

The Clapham victims differ from those in the tragedies at Zeebrugge and King's Cross in that they are from a relatively confined area. Dr Burns is liaising with the Social Services department of Wandsworth Borough Council to establish a hotline (01-871-7990) so victims can contact the hospital or be put in touch with local support groups.

Those discharged this week were given a psychiatric assessment to make sure they are "in balance". Dr Burns said: "The effects could go on for a very long time — people at King's Cross still experience symptoms — for others it could be over in a matter of weeks".

Those suffering, Dr Burns said,

should talk to a counsellor. That could include the hundreds of commuters from Bournemouth and Basingstoke who escaped injury in the accident.

"We strongly advise against bottling up emotions."

He added: "As for travelling by rail again, all of those leaving have said they would have to go right back on the railways because their jobs and lives depend upon it. Our advice to our patients will be to keep their lives as normal as possible."

For those with more serious physical injuries, Dr Burns said: "Imagine that people are going off to work and suddenly they are nearly dead and have to come to terms with their mortality."

"We find that talking it over is probably the most important factor with us, listening, and sharing emotions."

Widows complain over emergency 'hotlines'

By Tony Dawe

Widows of victims of the Clapham rail crash complained yesterday about difficulties getting through to the emergency telephone numbers opened to provide information about casualties. One said it took 30 hours to obtain confirmation of her husband's death and another said she had to wait 12 hours.

Their complaints echoed those which followed the Zeebrugge ferry tragedy and indicated that nothing has been achieved to improve the handling of inquiries in an emergency.

Mrs Joan Moore, whose

husband David was aboard the Bournemouth express train, said she rang the emergency "hotline" number hundreds of times but it was constantly engaged.

She finally got through nearly eight hours after the crash only to be told that there was no news of Mr Moore. His colleagues at Shell UK in London were told 30 hours after the crash that he had been killed.

Mrs Gillian Loader, from Chandlers Ford, Hampshire, whose husband Stephen died, said it took her 12 hours to hear of his death.

Chemis roll for with bc

Male terms

Planning hitch for TV dishes

By Richard Evans Media Editor

Telecoms... planning... hitch for TV dishes... Richard Evans Media Editor

Channel 4 focus

Channel 4 is planning a... focus... Channel 4 focus

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THE NEW FACE OF BRITISH COAL

Chemist struck off roll for steroid deal with bodybuilders

By Mark Ellis

A pharmacist who sold anabolic steroids to professional bodybuilders and gymnasium owners became the first chemist in Britain to be struck off the register of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for the offence yesterday.

Mr Halil Ozdemir, aged 33, who runs Woodside Pharmacy in Leytonstone High Street, east London, is said to have sold the drugs to buy the freehold on his property.

Judge Edward Sutcliffe, QC, chairman of the society's disciplinary statutory committee, said Mr Ozdemir had not accounted satisfactorily for at least 34 bottles of 100 Anapolon 50mg tablets and at least 187 vials of Somatomorm injections.

"He was supplying Anapolon and Somatomorm without prescription to professional bodybuilders and gymnasium owners; he did so knowing they were not on prescription; he did so knowing they possessed dangerous characteristics and he did so without great profit because it was convenient and easy cash", he said.

"Mr Ozdemir... has let down pharmacy and the good name of the profession. He is guilty of such misconduct to render him unfit to be on the register."

Mr Ozdemir, a Turkish

Cypriot, was found guilty of professional misconduct, but claimed he sent drugs to a hospital in the Turkish zone of Cyprus for children with growth deficiencies.

However, he had admitted to inspectors selling drugs to bodybuilders and gym owners at Tilbury, Essex, Stratford and Leytonstone, east London, and to a man in Croydon, Surrey, for only a few pounds to profit. He said he sold steroids to an American athlete who had given him a signed photograph.

Mr Michael Sullivan, counsel for the society, branded Mr Ozdemir a "drug-peddler" and added that the case was particularly grave because he was in a position of trust in relation to dispensing drugs.

Mr Jonathan Fisher, representing Mr Ozdemir, said: "The question is whether Ozdemir is a pedlar of anabolic steroids in the same way that David Jenkins is, albeit on a smaller scale, because if so, it is a very grave charge and it is a destruction of everything for which he has worked since he left Turkish Cyprus."

Jenkins, a former British athlete and Olympic sprinter, was sentenced to seven years' jail this week by a court in California for his part in a racket to supply steroids.

The committee, comprising

five pharmacists, accepted that some drugs might have been sent to Cyprus with the help of a doctor who wrote out a prescription on behalf of the hospital.

Society inspectors visited the pharmacy in October last year, during a 16-month investigation into alleged illegal drug supplies.

They found a discrepancy in the quantity of anabolic steroids bought from wholesalers and the amount registered as sold.

No loss of stock was recorded. Mr Ozdemir is said to have told them the drugs had been sold on prescription to gym owners for several months even though there were no forms to confirm the transactions.

Mr Ozdemir came to Britain as a child and trained as a pharmacist at Leicester Polytechnic. He has run his business for the past six years and has three months in which to appeal.

He refused to comment on the verdict, only saying he intended to appeal.

After the hearing, Mr Alan Davidson, deputy head of the society's law department, said: "This is the first case of its kind. It is very unfortunate that a pharmacist had to be brought before the society in this way."

Pinch of courage from a young hero

CHRIS HARRIS



David Pinder, at four Britain's youngest liver transplant patient, meeting Michael Crawford after the awards ceremony.

By Emma Wilkins

The Duchess of York praised the bravery and determination of this year's winners of the Children of Courage Awards at Westminster Abbey yesterday.

The Duchess paid tribute to David Pinder, aged four, who is Britain's youngest liver transplant patient. David, from Wawne, near Hull, endured a series of operations while still a baby, before his transplant in America. He went on a seven-mile sponsored walk for the village hall to thank the people of Humberside, who helped to pay for his trip.

David's mother, Mrs Susan Pinder, aged 26, said she asked the Duchess for a kiss when she presented him with a medal and scroll. "After she had kissed

him, he said he wanted to go home with her and meet Princess Beatrice."

The Duchess commended the prompt action of two schoolboys who grabbed the wheel of their school bus after the driver had a heart attack. Anthony Walters, aged 16, and Simon Marsh, aged 11, from Tredgar, Gwent, steered the bus up a grass verge where it crashed into the side of a house.

Anthony, who was badly cut and spent a month in hospital, said: "It didn't feel as though we were doing anything brave at the time. I was just terrified in case we crashed into the bus that was coming in the opposite direction."

Kelly Taylor, aged 11, had her left leg amputated only months after both her parents were killed in the Zeebrugge ferry

disaster. She has defied her disability to swim, dance and roller skate. Kelly, from Woolwich, south-east London, wants to be a nurse at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. "Nurses are very kind", she said. "I like children and I want to look after them."

The other 11 winners shared her quiet courage. "I only think I am brave because people keep telling me I am", she said. The awards, sponsored by *Woman's Own*, were presented after a carol service in Westminster Abbey attended by local school children. The winners met celebrities including Adrian Moorhouse, the Olympic swimming champion, Michael Crawford, the actor, and Mike Smith, the television personality.

Portfolio

PLUS Accumulator

Mr John Russell will buy a new television with his share of yesterday's Portfolio winnings.

Mr Russell, of Totton Road North, Heaton Moor, Stockport, shared the £4,000 prize with Mrs Frances Williams of Roding Way, Wickford, Essex, and Mr Demcan Bowles of "Paddock", Gilbert's Drive, Eastdean, Eastbourne.

Church service changes

Male terms may be dropped

By Robin Young

A discussion document released by the Church of England's liturgical commission is suggesting that the phraseology of the Alternative Service Book might be amended to get rid of male terms which are meant to include women.

The report, which has been prepared for the General Synod next February, says, for example, that in some places where the service mentions "ankind" the word could be replaced with "the world"; that "men" might become "people"; and "man" be replaced with "one".

It is adamant, however, that changes in the application of male pronouns and possessive adjectives in relation to God are not appropriate. The report confines itself to the text

in the Alternative Service Book and makes no suggestions for adaptation of the text of the Book of Common Prayer to meet feminist objections to "inclusive language".

Nor is there yet any formal proposal to authorize the alternative texts suggested in the report at this stage. If the House of Bishops did sanction the changes they could be used optionally, but would not be obligatory.

The Right Rev Colin James, Bishop of Winchester and chairman of the commission, said yesterday: "We are not proposing the total elimination of male terms used to include women. This is thought to be neither practicable nor desirable. But we are of the opinion that the

language of worship needs to be adapted to allow for changing usage."

The report notes that in some places clergy have already been making their own adaptations to the text of their services, under a freedom given by Canon B5 for a minister to make variations which are not of "substantial importance".

However, it says: "Not everyone would regard some of the changes being made as not being of substantial importance, particularly when some people make changes in the application of male pronouns and possessive adjectives in relation to God."

Making Women Visible will be available in bookshops from January 16, at £3.50.

Planning hitch for TV dishes

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Television viewers may not use more than one satellite dish unless they obtain planning permission, the Government confirmed yesterday.

The clause in the Town and Country Planning General Development Order, 1977, could have disastrous consequences for British Satellite Broadcasting, which plans to launch three new satellite channels seven months after Sky Television and other stations start broadcasting early next year.

Viewers who buy a 60cm dish to receive programmes from the 16-channel Astra satellite will need planning permission if they want to set up a separate dish - known as a "squarial" - to receive BSB programming.

Anyone using a second dish illegally could be fined up to £2,000 plus £20 for every day the second dish remains. The Act was updated in October although officials decided to leave the dish clause unchanged, the Department of the Environment said yesterday.

Some councils in the north of England, where bigger dishes may be needed, have prepared strict guidelines on the consent of planning permission.

BSB said last night that the planning rules were a good reason why people should wait and see before rushing to buy any dish.

Optical fibre link to America opens

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

The world's first transatlantic optical fibre cable, capable of carrying up to 40,000 simultaneous telephone calls between America and the UK and France, opened for business yesterday.

Described as a "milestone in telecommunications history", the £220 million TAT-8 cable will double the amount of communication now possible using undersea links. Its launch also marks the introduction of higher service standards.

Previously, engineers have relied on copper as the means of transporting signals across the Atlantic. Such cables need many hundreds of "repeaters", lying in tens of thousands of feet of water, to boost the signals on their way.

TAT-8's main cable consists of just six hair-thin strands of special glass. Using tiny lasers, messages are converted into digital pulses of light, which are squirted down the fibres. The use of such technology, invented by British scientists at the former research laboratories of STC, the telecomm-

munication company, will lead to greater clarity. Fewer repeaters will also improve reliability.

From its starting point in Tuckerton, New Jersey, the cable extends more than 3,500 miles to an ocean-bed branching point off the coast of France. There it divides to reach both France and Britain.

To protect against damage by sharks and submarines, the fibre is buried 3ft under the sea floor until the water is more than a third of a mile deep. At greater depths, it is protected with steel cladding.

British Telecom, AT&T of the US and France Telecom are the main contributors to the project. The cable itself was supplied by STC's factory in Southampton.

The Department of Trade and Industry's Communications Steering Group has advised against a complete switch to optical fibre-based communications. In a report published yesterday, it recommended a flexible policy, allowing further experimentation.

Jail threat to Higgins

Alex Higgins, the snooker player, was threatened with Christmas in jail if he fails to pay his former wife maintenance. Manchester county court was told yesterday.

Mr Higgins was given until midnight on Friday to start

clearing arrears of nearly £15,000 owed to Mrs Lynn Higgins. If he defaults, Mr Stuart Neale, for Mrs Higgins, confirmed he would apply for Mr Higgins to be sent to prison for six weeks, the maximum penalty.

Channel 4 focuses on entertainment

By Andrew Billen, Arts Correspondent

Channel 4 is placing a greater emphasis on entertainment in its schedules for the new year and has succeeded in buying two leading series recently launched in the United States.

The station, which has a reputation for showing some of the US's best comedy series, such as *Cheers*, *The Cosby Show* and *The Golden Girls*, will screen *Roseanne* on Fridays from late January.

Made by the Cosby producers, Marcy Carney and Tom Werner, *Roseanne* stars the American comedienne Roseanne Barr.

As well as winning a large audience in the US the pro-

gramme has been welcomed by critics for centering on blue-collar America at a time when programmes are increasingly aimed at the affluent middle class.

Channel 4 will also show from next month the outstanding drama series of the American season, *Thirtysomething*, about a group of college graduates still in touch 10 years later and facing the first trappings of middle age.

Starting on New Year's Day and continuing over the next two Saturdays, Channel 4 will present a festival to celebrate the eighty-fourth birthday of Sir Michael Tippett. It com-

prises a documentary showing the composer at work, a television version of his first opera, *The Midsummer Marriage*, and the wartime oratorio *A Child of Our Time*.

There will be two big movie seasons, the first featuring the new wave of Chinese filmmakers and the second an almost complete retrospective of the films of the Soviet director Andrei Tarkovsky.

Documentaries include *Vintage*, a history of drink, *On Trial*, on the future of the law and a further instalment of *Citizen 2000*, the yearly survey of 20 British children born in 1982.

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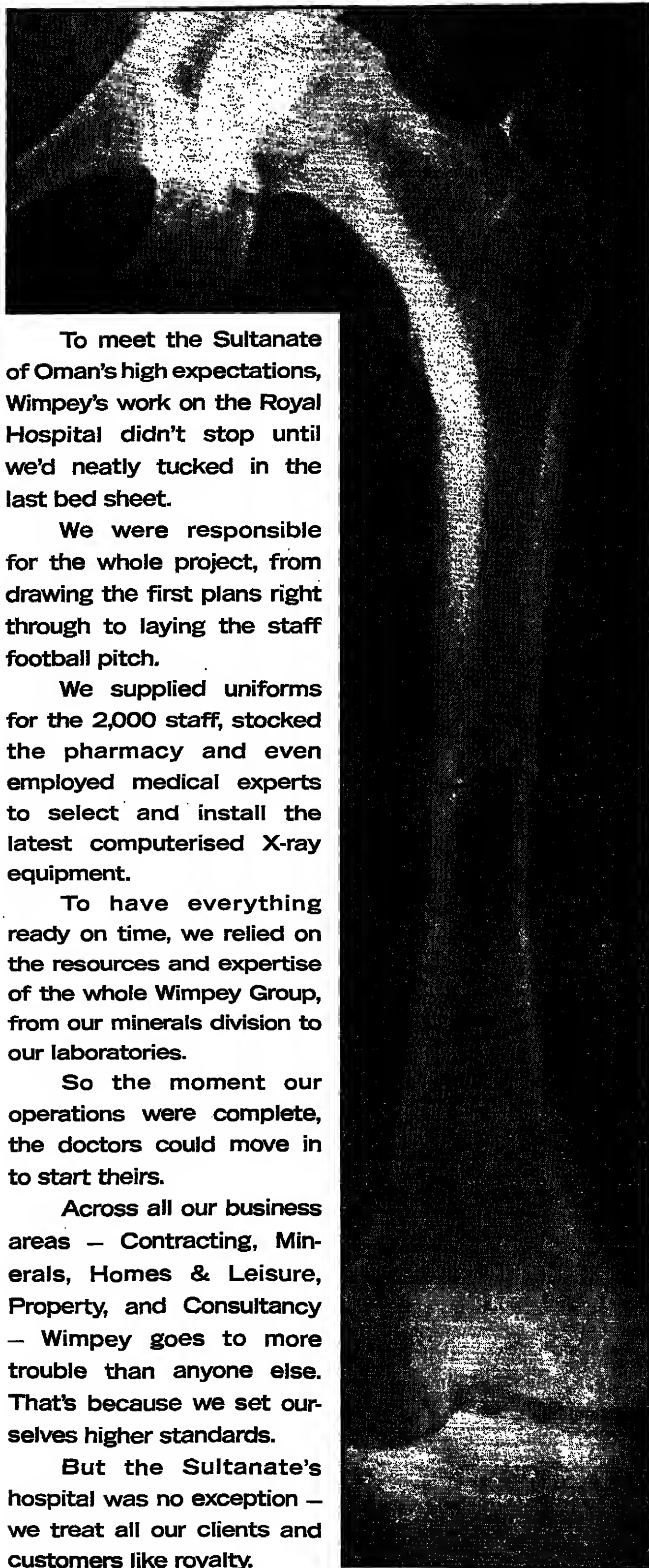
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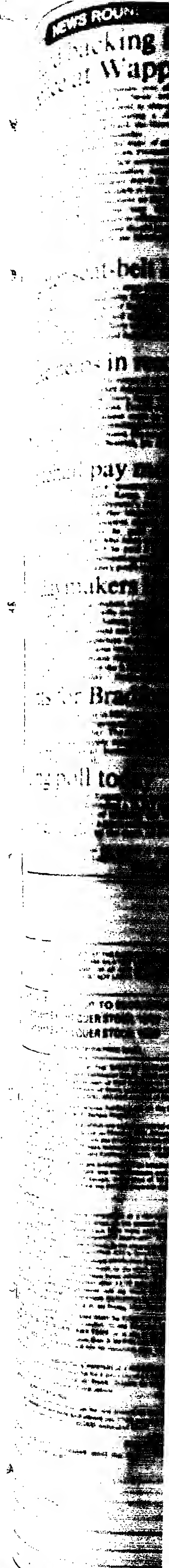
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NEWS ROUNDUP

Hurd backing for police at Wapping

The prosecution of several policemen over allegations of brutality during the protests at News International's Wapping plant should not be allowed to obscure the good work done by London police during a difficult and prolonged dispute, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, told Police Federation officials yesterday.

His comments were made in the wake of an announcement earlier this week by the Crown Prosecution Service that a number of officers are to face summonses after an investigation by the Northamptonshire force. A list of between 20 and 30 officers has been drawn up. A decision on who will be prosecuted is to be made in the next few days.

Mr Hurd said he could not comment on the cases, but he shared police concern over the time taken by the investigation and the distress caused to officers waiting for a conclusion. "I think it right everyone should be reminded of the stresses and strains to which the Metropolitan Police were exposed", Mr Hurd said.

Tighter seat-belt laws

Drivers will be fined for failing to strap children into the back seats of cars fitted with seat belts from next spring, Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, is confident the fine, probably £50, will reduce the number of children injured in car accidents. Sixty were killed and 7,000 injured while travelling unrestrained in the back seats of cars last year.

Duke helps in rescue

The Duke of York took part in the rescue of 18 Vietnamese "boat people" while his ship, HMS Edinburgh, was on her six-month voyage with a Royal Navy force which joined Australia's bicentennial celebrations. Details of the rescue, about 250 miles off the Vietnamese coast in September, emerged yesterday when the ship returned to her home port of Rosyth, Fife, with the duke on board. His return is in time for the christening of Princess Beatrice, his daughter, on Tuesday.

Whitehall pay move

The Government has achieved a "massive breakthrough" in Civil Service pay, Mr Peter Kemp, the permanent secretary in charge of the Government's new managerial initiative, said yesterday when Her Majesty's Stationery Office was launched as an executive agency. Stationery Office staff are in future to be paid according to performance. Dr Paul Freeman, who takes over in the new year as head of the agency, will be paid a minimum of £45,800 but will be eligible for increases up to £57,000 a year if it performs according to Treasury profit targets.

Holidaymakers hit

Thousands of would-be holidaymakers were told to stay at home yesterday as Spanish air traffic controllers joined the country's 24-hour general strike, halting all flights to Spain and the Canaries. Those who could not be contacted were put up in hotels near their departure airports and all are expected to leave today. At the same time, thousands had an extra day in their resorts. Thomson Holidays said they had managed to contact 90 per cent of the 2,700 passengers who should have left Britain yesterday. *Strike details, page 11*

Grants for Bradford

Bradford is to receive £56 million in EEC grants and loans to promote the city's economic regeneration, the European Commission announced yesterday. The money will be used to modernise the city's water supply, complete the ring road and provide support for small businesses and training programmes for the unemployed.

Epping poll today

Polling takes place today in the Epping Forest by-election, where the Conservatives are defending a 21,513 majority. Mr Steven Norris is confident of retaining the Conservatives' 15th safest seat, but with a much reduced majority. The by-election was prompted by the death of Sir John Biggs-Davison. *General Election: J Biggs-Davison (C) 31,536; A Humphris (SDP/Alliance) 10,023; S Murray (Lab) 9,499. Sketch, page 24*

Disastrous lack of stewardship by museums alarms MPs

Priceless collections 'deteriorating'

Museums angry at Commons criticism

By Martin Fletcher Political Reporter

An all-party committee of MPs condemned the Government, the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum yesterday for their failure to look after priceless national art collections.

The authoritative Commons Public Accounts Committee said that it was "seriously concerned" at the deteriorating state of the collections and that there had been "a major breakdown over many years in the proper stewardship of major national assets". One museum director had admitted that its failure to undertake repairs constituted "a national disaster".

Mr Robert Sheldon, committee chairman, said the situation was "horrifying" and "alarming". He added: "We are trying to acquire treasures for the nation which are in danger of going overseas but meanwhile parts of the stock that we have are decaying in our vaults".

The committee said the situation had to be tackled urgently through "a clear and concerted national programme, planned over a number of years and targeted at priority areas, and supported by an appropriate allocation of resources".

It had to be implemented with "unrelenting drive and determination... to secure the progressive improvements



Sir David Wilson: "financial trouble".



Mrs Esteve-Coll: "irreparable damage".

the public interest requires". The report, based on an earlier investigation by the National Audit Office, said many of the seven million objects owned by the two museums were stored in cramped, chaotic, humid and overcrowded conditions. They believed the "major difficulties" faced by the British Museum and the V&A were probably shared by the other national museums and galleries. Many individual collections were still deteriorating while the condition of others was being "at

best contained or only very slowly improved". The MPs said some of the delays in vital conservation work were "totally unacceptable". It had, for example, taken 128 years before a comprehensive survey of the V&A's National Art Library was carried out in 1985. That had revealed that thousands of valuable books and manuscripts were in urgent need of major repairs. Mrs Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, director of the V&A, admitted to the MPs that it was "a national disaster" and "repre-

within the overall arts budget for allocating funds to meet the most urgent priorities. Sir David Wilson, director of the British Museum, had told the MPs that they were "in terrible trouble" financially and might have to make further staff cuts in 1989. The V&A was in a similar position.

Apart from calling for a concerted national programme, the MPs made a number of specific proposals. They said museums had to consider disposing of items. They accepted that reserve collections were important for research and disposals could be regretted by future generations, but continued: "There is no escape from the view that an inexorable rise in the size of the collections places serious demands on limited public funds". The British Museum told the committee it had no intention of reviewing its present policy of non-disposal.

The museums had to be more selective in their acquisitions. Their trustees had to be clear and frank about the big problems they faced in their statutory reports in Parliament. Computerized inventories of all collections had to be completed to enable proper stocktaking and ensure objects were not being lost or stolen.

Public Accounts Committee: Management of the Collections of the English National Museums and Galleries (Stationery Office, £5.10). Leading article, page 17

Museums are greeting the Public Accounts Committee's criticism of their care of objects with unofficial but bitter resentment.

The report is the result of the PAC's consideration of the National Audit Office report last March which found bad storage, bad conservation and lack of inventory by the British Museum and V&A. The same points have been seized upon in the MPs' remarks. They have added that museums should consider disposing of items.

"It is very weak of them to suggest that again", Sir Hugh Leggett, secretary of Heritage in Danger and an art dealer who advises a number of national institutions on acquisition, said.

"First, trustees will just dispose of the most unfashionable objects, and that will get them no money. Second, it will do critical damage to one of the greatest traditions in this country, private patronage and the giving of works of art to the nation."

There is also resentment at the suggestion that the museums - and by association that means all our national repositories - have neglected the treasures in their care. There has been insufficient funding for the training of conservators and equipment, Sir Hugh said. There was a backlog from the Second World War in some cases.

The MPs' call for more selectivity in acquisition is likely to receive a hollow laugh in national galleries whose purchase grants have been virtually frozen for the past three years. In a survey published earlier this year, the Museums and Galleries Commission criticized the Government for not supporting the museums more and came out heavily against the disposal of objects. "Disposal is not going to solve any of the problems we are talking about in the PAC report", Mr Peter Longman, secretary of the commission, said.

The museums gave evidence to the PAC and made many of the points now being used against them. In 1980, the committee had asked the V&A how many more conservators it needed, and the reply was 40, double the existing figure.

One suggestion which is likely to be welcomed, however, is the committee's call for a "clear and concerted national programme" of conservation, and "appropriate allocation of resources".

Libel law reform

MPs' call adds to pressure

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Pressure is mounting for a change in the libel laws in the wake of *The Sun's* record £1 million payout to Elton John, the entertainer.

Twenty Labour MPs have tabled a Commons motion urging reform of the libel laws coupled with better compensation for injuries at work. They are concerned at the contrast between the huge sums being awarded for libel, many in the past few weeks, and levels of compensation awarded for personal injuries.

The £1m award given by *The Sun*, double that awarded to Mr Jeffrey Archer last year, is the latest of a rash of awards which are fuelling pressure for legal reform.

Yesterday Mr Peter de Savary, a yacht-owning oil company chief, won undisclosed damages and costs in settlement of an action against the now-defunct *London Daily News*. Mr John Preville, for Mr de Savary, told Mr Justice Mich-

ael Davies in the High Court that in May 1987 the newspaper published reports suggesting, wrongly, that the Fraud Squad suspected Mr de Savary, Falmouth Oil Services and Falmouth Oil were linked with serious offences.

In the Commons motion tabled by Mr David Clelland, MP for Tynemouth, the MPs are calling on the Government to change the law "to provide for proper compensation for injuries sustained at work".

At the same time, they want "large proportions of libel damages to be paid into a legal aid fund to give financial assistance to those who cannot afford to fight to clear their names and reputations. The MPs speak of "the need to deter effectively irresponsible behaviour by the news media".

"We believe that the contrast between sums paid to already rich individuals for hurt feelings and those paid to working people who suffer

disabling injury and even death in the course of their work is a stark reminder of the contradictions in social values in today's Britain."

There are other moves for reform: Mr Tony Worthington, Labour MP for Clydebank and Milngavie, is introducing a private member's Bill in the new year which would create a statutory right of reply in the press. Legal aid is not available in libel cases.

Last year Sir James Goldsmith, the businessman, set up a fund to help individuals bring libel actions they could otherwise not afford.

Fashion prize

Paris (AFP) - Ms Yoshi Takata, an aide to Pierre Cardin, the French designer, for 35 years, has been awarded the City of Paris's Silver Medal for helping to boost France's fashion relations with Japan.

Hayward resigns from Life Guards

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Captain Simon Hayward resigned from the Army yesterday 16 months after being convicted of smuggling cannabis worth £500,000 into Sweden.

Captain Hayward, aged 33, sent his resignation letter from his cell in Gevaldigergatan jail outside Malmo in southern Sweden, where he is serving a five-year term.

The Ministry of Defence confirmed that the Army Board had written to the Life Guards officer two weeks ago, requesting his resignation. "His resignation arrived today", a spokesman said, adding that he would receive a pension when he reached 60.

The end of Captain Hayward's career came as Mr Christopher Murray, his London solicitor, confirmed that "new evidence" had come to light. He said: "We're looking into it, it's very encouraging evidence." Mr Murray may petition

the Swedish courts to reopen the case.

Captain Hayward's salary of £17,500 was stopped as soon as he was found guilty in a Stockholm court in August last year, although he was still officially in the Army until yesterday. He has always claimed he was innocent of the smuggling charge. He appealed unsuccessfully against his conviction in September last year.

He was arrested in a remote part of central Sweden 21 months ago after driving his brother's Jaguar car from Ibiza. Swedish border police who checked his car found 50 kilos of cannabis hidden in the chassis.

Captain Hayward denied any knowledge of the drugs and said he had driven the car to Sweden on his brother's behalf to sell it. His brother Christopher disappeared after the arrest and has not been seen since.

APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE LODGED AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND, NEW ISSUES (P), NEW CHANGE, LONDON, EC4M 9AA NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON FRIDAY, 13TH JANUARY 1989, OR AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OR AGENCIES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 12TH JANUARY 1989.

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- 2 This offer is open to stockholders whose holdings are on the Bank of England Register and the Bank of Ireland, Belfast Register.
- 3 Settlement in respect of applications which are accepted will be made in accordance with paragraphs 11 and 12 below on Monday, 16th January 1989. 15 days rebate interest will be deducted from the price paid for purchases of 10 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1989; 109 days accrued interest will be added to the price paid for purchases of 11 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1989.
- 4 Stock in respect of which applications are accepted will be acquired by the Bank of England free from all liens, charges and encumbrances and with all the rights now or hereafter attaching to it except, in the case of 10 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1989, the right to receive the interest payment due on 1st February 1989.

Method of Application
6 Applications may be made on either a competitive or a non-competitive basis, as set out below, and must be submitted on the printed application forms referred to in paragraph 13 below. Each form must comprise either one competitive application or one non-competitive application. A separate application form must be completed for each Stock. In the case of stockholders who are not members of the Central Giro Office (CGO) Service, either the application form must be accompanied by stock certificates for at least the amount of the Stock stated on the application form, or the stock transfer form incorporated in the application form must have been certified. The Bank of England will not accept forms for certification after 11.15 a.m. on Thursday, 12th January 1989. Separate arrangements will be made under which gilt-edged market makers may make competitive applications by telephone to the Bank of England not later than 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 13th January 1989.

6 Application forms and stock certificates must be lodged at the Bank of England, New Issues (P), New Change, London, EC4M 9AA not later than 10.00 A.M. ON FRIDAY, 13TH JANUARY 1989, or at any of the Branches or Agencies of the Bank of England not later than 3.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 12TH JANUARY 1989. Applications will not be revocable after 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 13th January 1989.

7 Competitive applications must be for a minimum of £100,000 nominal of Stock; non-competitive applications must be for a minimum of £1,000 nominal and a maximum of £100,000 nominal of Stock. Subject to these limits, applications may be made in multiples of one penny.

8 COMPETITIVE APPLICATIONS
(a) Each competitive application must be for one amount of Stock and at one price expressed in pounds and pence per £100 nominal of Stock and must be for a minimum of £100,000 nominal of Stock.

(a) The Bank of England reserve the right to reject any competitive application or part of any competitive application. Competitive applications will be ranked in ascending order of price for each Stock and applications will be accepted from stockholders whose competitive applications are at or below the highest price at which the Bank of England decide that any competitive application should be accepted for that Stock ("the highest accepted price"). STOCKHOLDERS WHOSE COMPETITIVE APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED WILL BE PAID AT THE PRICES AT WHICH THEY APPLIED. For each stock competitive applications which are accepted and which are made at prices below the highest accepted price will be accepted in full; competitive applications which are accepted and which are made at the highest accepted price may be accepted in full or in part only.

9 NON-COMPETITIVE APPLICATIONS
(a) A non-competitive application must be for not less than £1,000 nominal and not more than £100,000 nominal of Stock.

(b) Only one non-competitive application in respect of each Stock may be submitted for the benefit of any one person. Multiple applications or suspected multiple applications are liable to be rejected.

(c) The Bank of England reserve the right to reject any non-competitive application. All non-competitive applications which are accepted will be accepted in full AT A PRICE FOR EACH STOCK ("the non-competitive price") EQUAL TO THE AVERAGE OF THE PRICES AT WHICH COMPETITIVE APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR THAT STOCK. The average being weighted by reference to the amount accepted at each price and ROUNDED UP TO THE NEAREST PENNY.

(d) All applications under £100,000 nominal of Stock will be deemed to be non-competitive and, if accepted, will be accepted in full at the non-competitive price.

10 The Bank of England may accept applications in respect of only one of the Stocks and may purchase less than £500,000,000 nominal of Stock in total. If applications are accepted in respect of both Stocks the amount of each Stock purchased will be determined by the Bank of England at its discretion.

11 Stockholders whose applications are accepted and who are members of the CGO Service will be notified by telephone of the amount of Stock in respect of which their applications have been accepted by 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 16th January 1989. Payments to CGO Service members in respect of Stock purchased under this offer will be made by assured payment through the CGO Service against delivery of the Stock on Monday, 16th January 1989. Payments of £7,000 and above to other Stockholders will be made through the Clearing House Automated Payments System on Monday, 16th January 1989 if the relevant details have been given in Section E of the application form. In all other cases payment will be made by cheque despatched on Monday, 16th January 1989 by first class mail at the risk of the stockholder to the address shown in the application form.

12 Balance certificates, where applicable, will be despatched after registration of the transfer of the Stock purchased.

13 Application forms, incorporating stock transfer forms, and copies of this notice may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, New Change, London, EC4M 9AA, or at any of the Branches or Agencies of the Bank of England; at the Bank of Ireland, Moynock Buildings, 1st Floor, 20 Callender Street, Belfast, BT 1 5BN; or at any office of The International Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

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BRITISH MIDLAND

Dons may boycott examinations as protest over pay

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

A boycott of all examination work by 31,000 university lecturers, which could lead to thousands of students being unable to take their degree finals, is almost certain to start in the New Year.

The Association of University Teachers yesterday published the results of a ballot of its members showing a two-to-one majority in favour of industrial action over pay.

Dons are angry because university vice-chancellors have refused to make a pay offer for the salary year ending in April on the ground that they have no money to fund a deal.

The association's ruling council, meeting at Warwick University, is expected to agree today that the boycott should start from the beginning of the academic term on January 9.

If it goes ahead, the action will involve a ban on setting, marking or invigilating examinations.

Everything from first-year exams to degree finals will be affected, but lecturers will be free to continue with work on school examinations such as GCSE and A level. Miss Diana Warwick, general secretary of the association, said yesterday: "The decline in academic pay is critical for the universities and for the nation which needs graduates of high calibre."

"This vote demonstrates that our members are prepared to take damaging action because they feel they have no option. No union could have wished less to be forced into this situation, but when all reasonable discussions have failed, action is the only course."

Last year university academic staff were given a 23 per cent pay rise to cover the period from April 1986 to March 1988.

The association says that £50 million, which the Government is giving to the universities from next April and is unallocated so far, could be used to provide a 7 per cent across the board rise.

Mr Stephen Rouse, assistant secretary at the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said: "Interfering with examinations would be unprofessional and a serious breach of contract". However, he added: "The vice-chancellors are confident that few would do so because it is so damaging to students who have no part in a squabble over staff pay".

Addressing the council's opening session, Mr Allen McTernan, association president, said reductions in government spending on universities was part of a policy of cutting the "life enhancing element of public sector expenditure".

He said: "What fraction of the cost of a single Trident missile would be necessary to wipe out the debts of universities accumulated since the cuts started in 1981?"

"How many flights to the Falklands would have to be cut in order to restore the recurrent grant to the university sector to a level that would provide proper salaries for university staff?"

He added: "We have a professional responsibility, individually and collectively, to speak up to protect and advance opportunities for higher education in this country and to guard the standards and integrity of scholarship and research".

Serpentine pirates capture rear admiral



Rear Admiral Jeremy Larke, commander of the assault ship HMS Fearless during the Falklands campaign, with "pirates" Mr Derek Picot (left) general manager of the Sheraton Park Tower Hotel, London, and Mr Simon Kluge, an account executive at the hotel, preparing for a boat race across the Serpentine, Hyde Park in aid of the King George's Fund for Sailors.

MP to introduce Bill on national identity card

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Commons will be asked to vote early in the new year on the introduction of a national identity card scheme. Mr Ralph Howell, Conservative MP for Norfolk North, who came third in the recent ballot for private member's Bills,

is going to introduce legislation which would make the carrying of such cards by everyone obligatory. He believes the scheme would be an important contribution towards improving law and order, and has the support of the 125,000

strong Police Federation, but not the Government. The Association of Chief Police Officers' general purposes committee has recommended that its full council support the idea at its meeting in January.

Growing violence mars fall in crime

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Violent crime is up by 13 per cent in England and Wales to a new peak, though overall offences are down by 3 per cent, the biggest fall for 10 years.

The figures, published yesterday, caused a mixture of concern and pleasure to ministers. They are for recorded crime in the 12 months to September, compared with a similar period a year earlier.

The good sign is that overall crime - 93 per cent involves property - has shown a dramatic turn round this year. Between 1980 and 1987 there was an annual average increase of 5 per cent.

The news is even better for the third quarter alone: the drop was 7 per cent compared with a similar period last year.

However, the number of sexual crimes increased by 10 per cent to 26,800 and violent offences rose by 13 per cent to 153,500. Those increases compare with annual average rises of 3 per cent and 5 per cent respectively between 1980 and last year.

Robberies fell by 0.8 per cent to 31,900.

Burglaries dropped by 8 per cent to 73,000. Mr John Patten, Home Office Minister of State, said yesterday that meant about 200,000 fewer police hours being spent on dealing with them.

He described the overall drop as a triumph for effective preventive policing and for the active citizen involved in neighbourhood watch or

crime prevention panels. There were now 60,000 neighbourhood watch schemes involving more than three million people, he said.

Government action to increase public awareness of the need to safeguard property has also been directed at vehicle crime.

Only 1 per cent more thefts from vehicles were recorded. There had been a 6 per cent increase in the 12 months to last June and a 12 per cent rise in the year to last March. Offences of theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle fell by 6 per cent in the 12 months to September.

The success in reducing crime overall is thought by Ministers partly to point to a knock-on effect of a combination of measures, including a mounting government campaign for safer cities.

Metropolitan force areas in England and Wales showed a drop of 4.6 per cent compared with one of 0.9 per cent in non-Metropolitan force areas. The biggest falls were on Merseyside (10.5 per cent) and West Midlands (9.9 per cent).

In the Metropolitan Police district and City of London there was a 1 per cent decrease.

Home Office Statistical Bulletin. Notifiable Offences Recorded by the Police in England and Wales - Third Quarter 1988. Statistical Department, Home Office, Lunar House, Croydon, Surrey CR0 9YD; £1.50.



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Arab moderates will press US for change in Palestine policy

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

The moderate Arab states are planning a diplomatic offensive to support Mr Yassir Arafat's speech to the United Nations in Geneva, and to increase pressure on the US to reverse its refusal to open contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Last night the official Middle East News Agency reported that President Mubarak of Egypt had personally rebuked Mr George Shultz, the outgoing US Secretary of State, over his policy towards the Palestinians.

"Mubarak told the US Secretary that the US must take a more positive and understanding attitude towards the constructive resolutions taken by the PLO in recent weeks," the agency said.

Arab sources said yesterday that the main reason for the campaign was fear that extremists would soon regain the upper hand if PLO moderation achieved no progress.

Washington's frosty reaction drew an Arab response that was a mixture of anger and frustration. It served to intensify anti-American sentiment in the Arab world after the decision to deny the PLO leader a visa to visit New

York. The Arab attitude was summed up by a cartoon in the Bahraini daily *Al-Khaleej* which showed Mr Arafat plucking out his eye and offering it to President Reagan, who responds by telling him: "I want the other eye."

In the United Arab Emirates, the daily *Al-Bayan* said in a leading article: "The offer eliminated all question marks raised by the United States and Israel over Palestinian intentions. America is pushing the Palestinian case back to the beginning. It could prompt the Palestinians to take the zero option."

Both President Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan, two of the strongest backers of American policy in the region, warmly praised the PLO leader's speech and claimed that it adequately met the demands from Washington for the beginning of a peace dialogue.

"I do not know what more is required from Arafat," an exasperated Mr Mubarak told reporters as he emerged from the Soviet Embassy here, after paying respects to the victims of the Armenian earthquake.

"The US Administration should encourage the voice of moderation and should sup-

port its friends." The Egyptian leader, who is expected to make an early visit to Washington to press home his demands on the Bush Administration, added: "No head of state can guarantee 100 per cent that none of his citizens will undertake a terrorist operation to embarrass him."

"Arafat's speech covered all the points demanded by Washington and there is no need for statements claiming he did not mention these in a certain way."

A key element to the Arab plan is to open 1989 with an extraordinary Arab summit in Saudi Arabia which would take the Palestinian issue as its central theme and would invite Egypt to take part for the first time at such a gathering since its expulsion from the Arab League in 1979.

Yesterday President Assad of Syria, one of the bitterest Arab opponents of Egypt's return while she still maintains the peace treaty with Israel, was in Saudi Arabia for the first time in nearly three years. Western experts said his visit was connected with Saudi efforts to improve ties between Syria and Egypt and Syria and Iraq.

Peres set to switch jobs in power tactic

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem



Mr Shimon Peres telling the Knesset yesterday that Mr Yassir Arafat's UN speech was a political disappointment.

Mr Shimon Peres is preparing to resign as Israel's Foreign Minister after deciding that Mr Yassir Arafat's speech to the UN means that the peace process is deadlocked for the foreseeable future.

The Labour leader, who is involved in the last stages of negotiations to form another coalition with Likud, has been persuaded that his best strategy now would be to take over the Finance Ministry. From there he could supervise a recovery plan for the ailing Israeli economy, rather than try to start negotiations for peace. Labour Party leaders hope that, if he succeeds as Finance Minister, it will give him the best chance of winning the next election.

Analysing the UN speech in the Knesset yesterday, Mr Peres showed that his views on this subject are the same as those of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud Prime Minister, who called it "a monumental act of deception".

The Foreign Minister said the speech was at best a rhetorical success, but at the same time a political disappointment. It had failed to confront the real issues, he said. Promises made by the Palestine Liberation Organization to the US had not been fulfilled and expected decisions had not been taken. "All Arafat did was acrobatics," he said.

The PLO leader had forgotten his history because the 1947 UN resolution on

partitioning Palestine, which he now said he accepted, "was rejected by the Arabs, not just with words, but with swords, blood and war".

The PLO leader was trying to merge this dead resolution with the one passed in 1967 which implicitly acknowledged Israel's right to exist. "You cannot look at a cemetery and pretend it is a maternity ward," Mr Peres said.

As to renouncing terror, Mr Peres said the speech left the door open for further violence in the occupied territories by describing the uprising as "a democratic process". Did Mr Arafat really believe throwing petrol bombs which killed women and children was "a democratic process"? It was not enough to condemn terror. What was needed was a commitment not to use terror.

Inviting the UN to control a Palestinian state would mean Israel just giving up. "We want us first to accept both an independent state and the UN, and only then to negotiate," he said.

Current pressure by the PLO was the result of the

uprising and its violence. "But you have either got to shoot or talk. Those who shoot at us will be shot right back. It is not important what he says. What is important is that he goes on shooting."

London differed even more sharply with the Israelis. Whitehall sources saying that Mr Shamir's reaction was "a matter for regret".

A Foreign Office spokesman noted: "We were encouraged by what Mr Arafat said in his speech. It represented a further move forward from the Algiers PNC (Palestine National Council) declaration, and underlined the extent to which the PLO had changed their position."

"We recognized that the language of the speech reflected the nature of the occasion, but we still hoped for greater clarity."

Whitehall sources would not say which aspect of the speech lacked clarity. Unlike many observers, the Foreign Office appeared not to be critical of Mr Arafat's failure explicitly to state that the PLO recognized the state of Israel.

The sources said that repeated references to Israel in the speech amounted to implicit recognition.

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British pledge to stop EEC fraud

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

Britain yesterday promised to "jump on" any evidence of corruption affecting the EEC budget, following the annual official report on Community finances for 1987 which exposed widespread fraud, deception and mismanagement.

But Mr John MacGregor, Minister for Agriculture, said yesterday that the document contained very little criticism of the United Kingdom.

It was imperative in future for every new spending proposal by the Commission to be examined thoroughly, and all scope for fraudulent practices rooted out. "Where we find evidence of corruption in Britain, we will jump on it," Mr MacGregor said.

The report, drawn up by the EEC's Court of Auditors, revealed rampant corruption in the allocation of pensions to Community staff, "manipulation" in agricultural spending, and widespread profiteering in beef export refunds.

An astonishingly large number of low-grade officials received disability pensions, which provide up to 70 per cent of normal salary for life. As many as nine out of 10 secretaries had obtained disability pensions, while almost

every driver and porter was assured of such a pension.

A comparison with a leading French financial institution over the same period showed that, while only 3 per cent of male bank workers qualified for disability pensions, the figure for EEC staff was more than 34 per cent.

The document also exposed serious malpractices in agriculture, in which the European Commission had been "manipulating" the Community's annual budget to try to demonstrate that restrictions on farm spending, first introduced after the Fontainebleau summit in 1984 and tightened after the Brussels summit in February, had been adhered to.

Substantial potential for fraud was unearthed, after a year-long investigation into beef exports from Britain, Ireland, West Germany and France demonstrated that hardly any of the exports on which refunds were paid had been checked by national customs authorities.

The Court of Auditors said that the new Commission, which takes office in the new year, must "correct" the situation.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Pretoria ready to return MiG pilot

Johannesburg - South Africa has offered to repatriate the pilot of an Angolan MiG-21 fighter aircraft which strayed into Namibia as part of a peace agreement signed this week with Angola and Cuba (Gavin Bell writes).

The unprecedented incursion took place on Tuesday, when the pilot apparently became lost in heavy cloud, ran out of fuel and landed in a field 150 miles south of the Angola-Namibia border. A Defence Force spokesman said the South African Air Force had not intercepted or communicated with the plane.

The incident took place as South Africa, Angola and Cuba were signing a protocol in Brazzaville providing for Namibian independence and withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Mr Pik Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, offered yesterday to return the plane and exchange the pilot for a South African soldier captured in Angola.

Cameraman freed

A British journalist held for almost 18 months by the right-wing Mozambican National Resistance in a remote bush camp was released yesterday as a gesture of goodwill for Christmas. The Foreign Office said that Mr Nicholas de la Casa, aged 28, a freelance cameraman, who was accused of being a British spy by the South African-backed guerrillas, had arrived in neighbouring Malawi. The British Government had refused to negotiate directly for his release.

Greek minister quits

Athens - Another minister resigned from the Greek Government yesterday plunging the Papandreu Administration, beleaguered by financial scandals, deeper into disarray (A Correspondent writes). Mr Stathis Yotas, the Junior Defence Minister, became the sixth minister to resign in as many weeks. Mr Yotas, who also resigned as a parliamentary deputy, blamed "interventions made recently in the performance of my duties".

Mandela's law award

Johannesburg (Reuter) - Nelson Mandela has received the highest qualification available in the South African legal system that has kept him in prison since 1962. Professor Marinus Weichers, of the University of South Africa, said yesterday that Mandela, aged 70, had passed by correspondence his final examination for admission to the bar as an advocate, the South African equivalent of a barrister. "It is a great achievement," Professor Weichers said.

Dissident released

Moscow (AP) - A man who was sentenced to seven years in a labour camp and two years of exile for protesting against the exile of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, has been freed, a dissident source said yesterday.

Alexander Podrabinek, an editor of the human rights journal *Ekspres-Khronika*, said Vazif Melnikov, a 50-year-old mathematician, was freed from exile in Siberia by a clemency order of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

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Health chief describes earthquake rescue work as troops stay on the alert for ethnic unrest

Soviet minister tells of 'London blitz' on enormous scale

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

Dr Yevgeny Chazov, the Soviet Health Minister, yesterday gave some of the most vivid and authoritative accounts yet of the chaos that faced the first Soviet rescue workers after the Armenian earthquake.

He also called for the establishment of a national emergency service that would be ready and trained to cope with disasters, such as the Chernobyl nuclear accident and earthquake relief.

Dr Chazov returned from Yerevan, the Armenian capital, on Tuesday after co-ordinating the medical services in the first five days of the rescue operation. The work of the medical teams has been widely praised as the most successful part of an otherwise inadequate response to the disaster by the Soviet emergency services.

The minister, who declined to confirm a Moscow radio report that he had condemned the Soviet civil defence organization as "completely bankrupt", said that he was informed about the scale of the disaster within hours and had the first medical teams on the spot the same day.

Specialist medical teams were assembled initially from Moscow, the republic of Georgia, and elsewhere in Armenia to fly to Leninakan. They were subsequently joined by teams from other Soviet cities. Dr Chazov said that the first few days had afforded scenes that

would never be forgotten by those who witnessed them.

He spoke of children found alive between dead parents, of limbs being amputated on the streets without anaesthetic, of instant decisions doctors had to take — like whether to remove the hand of a three-year-old girl.

He compared the devastation and the large number of "crush" injuries with the London blitz — except that the earthquake happened more

suddenly and the numbers were even greater. All the medical facilities in the town of Spitak were destroyed, as were most of the hospitals in Leninakan. There was no power and no running water. Seventy per cent of trained medical personnel in the area were killed.

Dr Chazov said that those who survived were in deep shock and unable to work. Many had lost members of their families. It had been essential to bring in trained

staff from outside, and to evacuate those most seriously injured to specialist hospitals. The majority were in Armenia and Georgia, but 270 were in Moscow. Of more than 5,000 people treated in hospital, only 50 had died.

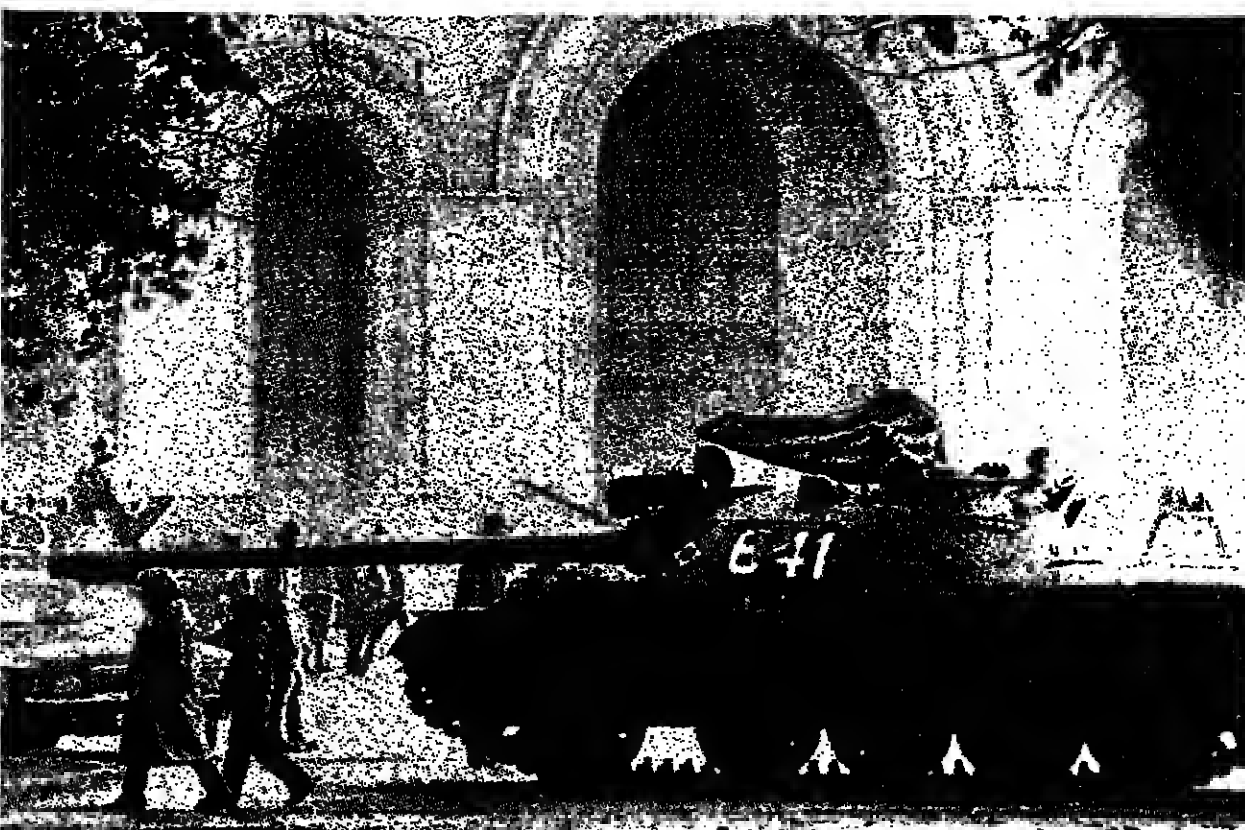
In a departure from previous practice, Dr Chazov said that the medical authorities were also providing psychiatric help for survivors. The minister said that he had insisted on the most stringent measures to prevent infection.

Bodies had to be buried immediately they were recovered, troops had been inoculated, and the emergency water supplies that had been fixed up were regularly monitored. But Dr Chazov denied reports that helicopters were spraying the ruined towns with disinfectant and also discounted rumours that typhus had broken out.

He confirmed that no survivors were taken to hospital in the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan, nor had its medical teams been invited to take part in the rescue, despite offers from them.

Christian Armenia and predominantly Muslim Azerbaijan are locked in conflict as the result of a flare-up of an old dispute over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Dr Chazov declined to give any firm figure on the final death toll, saying it was still far too early to be certain.



A Soviet tank yesterday in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, enforcing the state of emergency after last month's ethnic unrest.

Overnight curfew imposed in Armenia

From Our Own Correspondent Moscow

As an indication of the continuing tension in the Armenian capital of Yerevan, the Soviet Army newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* yesterday published an hour-by-hour account of the mass demonstration on Sunday which was broken up by troops.

It has also emerged that a state of emergency tantamount to martial law is in force in many regions of Armenia and Azerbaijan, and that the whole of Armenia is subject to a five-hour overnight curfew.

Krasnaya Zvezda said last weekend's trouble in Yerevan began on Saturday, when a large crowd gathered outside the

Writers' Union building. Police and troops found that an illegal meeting of the outlawed Karabakh Committee, the unofficial group set up to spearhead Armenia's demands for the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan, was in progress.

By 7pm there were about a thousand people there, many shouting protests against the Soviet Government and the Army. Leaflets were distributed and petitions passed round.

According to the newspaper, the petitions called for an end to all official talk about "fraternal co-operation and internationalism" from Azerbaijan — a reference to the republic's official offer to help the earthquake relief effort.

Seven members of the Karabakh

committee were detained. One, Mr Ashot Manucharyan, was released after pleading immunity in prosecution because he is an elected member of the Supreme Soviet.

As troops were breaking up that crowd, some 2,000 people attempted to march from the Writers' Union building. The square was surrounded by troops and the march broken up by force. Unofficial reports say troops used batons and shots were fired.

● Riga meeting: A meeting was held at the weekend in Riga, capital of the Baltic republic of Latvia, to establish a "forum of the peoples of Latvia". The aims of the forum are said to be to further co-operation between the different nationalities and foster cultural activity.

Japan slow to respond in disaster relief effort

From Joe Joseph Tokyo

Why does Japan take so long to act when disaster strikes abroad?

As foreign rescue teams helped to dig bodies from the wreckage of the Armenian earthquake and other rescue workers unloaded blankets and medicines from all over the world, Japan was still deciding how much to send and when to send it.

While Britain swiftly pledged £5 million, Japan's immediate response was a donation of £45,000 through the Japan Red Cross.

Days after other countries had begun to send relief supplies and rescue teams Japan was organizing a reconnaissance team.

By Tuesday the Japanese had finally found a commercial Aeroflot flight with cargo space available. Blankets, electric generators and medicines were sent to Armenia. Another batch will leave today. On Tuesday the Cabinet also decided to raise its contribution to 1.1 billion yen, which almost exactly matched Britain's initial £5 million.

But Japan's critics are baffled by the country's slow response. Japan protests that it merely operates in a different way. "The Government of Japan needs an official request from the Soviet Union before it gives aid," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Japan also resists using military aircraft to carry aid supplies. It feels that would contravene its Constitution, which restricts the use of military planes outside Japan.

Sri Lanka election

Extremists vow to disrupt poll with further violence

From Edward Gorman, Colombo

The leader of the Sinhalese extremist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front) said last night that he would not accept the results of Monday's presidential election and warned that his campaign of violence would continue.

In a handwritten two-page letter delivered to the offices of the Commissioner of Elections, Mr Chandananda de Silva, the JVP leader described the elections as illegal and undemocratic.

"We appeal to you to join with us by not participating in this fraud," Mr Rohana Wijeweera, in hiding since 1983, told the Commissioner. "You should reveal to the public this treacherous and anti-nation act."

In an apparent threat to Mr De Silva, he continued: "If you do not do this, you will become part of the conspiracy ... and history will judge you on this. Do not allow it to happen."

The JVP has been fighting to prevent the elections taking place and to overthrow the Government. Its campaign of assassinating supporters of the ruling United National Party has claimed more than 700 lives since July last year.

Mr Wijeweera's letter came the day after a raid on Colombo's top-security Wellkade jail in which 221 prisoners escaped. Earlier reports suggested that 30 prisoners had managed to break out.

Three people are believed to have died in the raid and eight others were injured, but police have captured only one escapee.

Sources here say that many were senior members of the underground movement and included several provincial commanders.

The raid, thought to have begun when the prisoners detonated smuggled-in explosives, is the latest in a series which have freed hundreds of suspected JVP activists. It is being seen as particularly embarrassing for the Government, which has cracked down hard on the movement in recent weeks, arresting thousands of young men in a bid to restore order in the run-up to the elections.

Despite continuing rumours of a last-minute postponement, the chairman of the United National Party said in a hastily arranged news conference yesterday that he was confident the polls would go ahead.

"We are not for postponement because we are confident of victory and we are confident the Election Commissioner can carry out elections even with the difficulties," the party chairman, Mr Ranjan Wijeratna, said.

He added that he believed the armed forces were fully in control and capable of giving "adequate protection" to voters at polling stations.

Palme death arrest

Stockholm — Police have arrested a Swede with a history of psychiatric illness and a previous conviction for manslaughter on suspicion of murdering Olof Palme, the Prime Minister, nearly three years ago (Christopher Mosey writes).

The man, aged 41, and unemployed, who has yet to be charged or named, admitted being in a restaurant near the spot in central Stockholm where Palme was killed by a single bullet through the back of the neck on February 28, 1986. There have been several previous arrests but no charges have been brought.

Bus tragedy

Johannesburg (Reuters) — All 18 occupants of a minibus, one of the so-called "black taxis" run to supplement sparse bus services, were killed when it collided head-on with a bus in the Orange Free State province.

Kenya murder

Nairobi — Kevin Hynes, a British teacher found dead at his flat in Mombasa, is believed by the Kenya police to have been the victim of robbers. Much of his property was missing.

Iran relents

Nicosia (Reuters) — Iran has announced it will permit approved political parties to operate but warned would-be politicians to learn from the "bitter experiences" of the country's past.

Visa appeals

Bonn — East German visitors and emigrants will be able, from next year, to appeal to the courts if their applications to travel to the West are refused, new regulations say.

Briton killed

Gibraltar — Spanish police are investigating an incident in which Eric Jansz, a London-born Briton aged 75, was found stabbed to death here.

Plane crash

Cairo (Reuters) — A Nigerian transport aircraft has crashed on a village in Upper Egypt killing all eight members of the crew and, some reports said, five villagers.

Dali recovers

Barcelona (Reuters) — The painter, Salvador Dali, aged 84, who almost died two weeks ago, was discharged from hospital and returned to his surrealistic art gallery.

Children held

Sidon (Reuters) — A school bus driver armed with a machine gun held 50 children hostage for an hour to protest against being sacked.

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Signs of new rift among Afghan rebels

From Anatol Lievev, Peshawar

With the deadline for the final Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan only nine weeks away and a second round of Soviet-Mujahidin talks imminent, there is evidence of renewed splits within the Afghan Resistance Alliance.

Several leaders of the seven-party grouping are still away from their bases after the first talks with Soviet representatives at Taif in Saudi Arabia eight days ago. But observers think their absence may be connected with the speeding up of moves towards the formation of an interim Afghan representative body.

Two of the Mujahidin parties, the Hezb-i Islami of Maulavi Younis Khalis, and the Ittehad-i Islami of Professor Abdur Rasul Sayyaf, have rejected the principle of talks with Moscow before the Soviet withdrawal.

Mr Khalis's statements suggest his stand may be softening, and that when the representatives from Taif return to Peshawar, all the leaders may be able to agree to take part in more talks.

Another party generally considered to be radical or fundamentalist, the Hezb-i Islami faction of Mr Gulbudin Hekmatyar, supports the talks. Mr Hekmatyar has argued that direct talks with the Soviet Union are a long-standing Mujahidin demand, and they therefore represent a victory for the resistance.

But Mr Hekmatyar, in common with all the other leaders,

has rejected President Gorbachev's latest proposals for a ceasefire and an international peacekeeping force. He said this was "intended to achieve for the Soviets all those goals which they could not achieve in their past 10 years of imposed war".

The actual strength of the rebel parties on the ground, both inside Afghanistan and in the refugee camps, may soon be of crucial importance.

The deadline for the withdrawal is only nine weeks away, and the second round of talks between Soviet representatives and the Mujahidin is supposed to be held in Pakistan within two weeks.

The parties are coming under pressure from Afghan exiles — and, if only indirectly, from the US — to move as quickly as possible towards setting up an interim representative council, since a full Shura (elected body representing all the Afghan people) clearly cannot be called in the middle of winter and a war.

The seven parties agree on the need for such a body, but not on how it should be chosen. The "moderate" National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, led by Pir Ahmad Gailani, believes in elections from the refugee camps under international supervision, with representatives from within Afghanistan chosen by local commanders. Mr Hekmatyar says he is also in favour of elections. He is said to be confident of



An Afghan rebel, injured by a booby trap, travelling to the Pakistan border for treatment. His strength in the refugee camps around Peshawar and is generally believed to be still the most favoured recipient of the international aid which is channelled through the Pakistan intelligence service which, for its part, is believed to enjoy considerable support among refugees in the Quetta area, where moderate and royalist opinion predominate. Mr Khalis's Hezb-i Islami, in contrast, opposes direct elections as un-Islamic. It advocates instead representation by "educated Muslims who have the trust of

the people" — selected, presumably, by local notables. Given these divisions, and especially in view of the imminence of the next Soviet-Mujahidin talks, the absence abroad of so many of the rebel leaders is considered baffling by most Western observers. It seems to cause little concern to many of the Mujahidin. Moves towards a united resistance front seem impossible until they return.

Of the delegation at Taif, Professor Buchannuddin Rabbani, of the Jamiat-i Islami, is said to be still in Saudi Arabia, and the whereabouts of Dr Sibghatullah Mojaddidi of the Afghan National Liberation Front, and of Mr Karyab of the Hezb-i Islami Hekmatyar faction are not known. Their absence is causing suspicion in the other parties.

Meanwhile, disquiet has been caused by some rebel sources who believe that something resembling a massacre of Kabul government troops from Torikham took place on the Pakistan border between Jalalabad and Peshawar after the garrison fell to the Mujahidin last month for the first time.

About 70 men are supposed to have died at the hands of fighters from Mr Khalis's Hezb-i Islami. An official of one of the smaller parties said: "If true, this would be very disastrous."

The allegations — emanating originally from Kabul — have been denied by a Hezb-i Islami representative.

West's silence on conference plea dismays Russians

From Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Two months from today, Soviet troops are due to complete their withdrawal from Afghanistan, leaving the Kabul Government to face two large alliances of Muslim guerrilla movements, based in Pakistan and Iran and both determined to overthrow it.

With time running out, Soviet officials are showing concern bordering on desperation to find a way of persuading the West to help them withdraw with dignity, leaving a broad-based government.

They have been dismayed by the West's lack of interest in a proposal made by President Gorbachev in his speech at the United Nations a week ago for an international conference on Afghanistan.

The proposal was overshadowed by his announcement that Moscow will reduce unilaterally its military forces. But it is now clear that his intention, in making it the sole regional problem mentioned in his speech, was to focus Western attention on it. Instead he has been met by silence.

Most Western diplomats feel that the conference would be little more than a second attempt to persuade the West to cut off military supplies to the Mujahidin, which the Geneva Accords failed to do.

Moscow had been following a "twin-track" approach with

two sets of parallel negotiations. While trying to cajole the West to help it, it has appointed Mr Yuli Vorontsov, one of its most experienced arms control negotiators, to talk directly to the guerrillas.

Soviet sources said Mr Vorontsov had completed initial talks held in Saudi Arabia with the guerrillas, but refused to give details.

Western observers believe that the Mujahidin will have maintained their refusal to participate in a broad-based government unless the present Kabul leadership is removed, something which Moscow may be contemplating.

It was confirmed yesterday that there have been more high-level talks between the Afghan Government, which was not involved in the talks in Saudi Arabia, and Moscow. Mr Vorontsov, briefed President Nabilullah, while Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, held talks with his Afghan counterpart, Mr Abdul Wali.

President Gorbachev reaffirmed at the UN his determination to meet the February 15 withdrawal date. But Soviet officials, speaking personally, say they do not see how this can be achieved unless the West is persuaded.

Japan curbs extremists

Fears mount over right-wing antics

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Japan's small but noisy extreme right-wing factions are on the warpath again, this time over a mayor who suggested that Emperor Hirohito bore some responsibility for Japan's role in the Second World War.

Mr Hitoshi Motoshima, Mayor of Nagasaki, the first local government head to express publicly such an opinion, is under police protection after extremist threats.

The Government has just passed a law banning right-wingers from driving their military-looking vans along Tokyo's streets and broadcasting anti-left slogans.

Despite official denials, it is believed that the Government rushed the Bill through Parliament to avoid embarrassing Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, who visits Tokyo this weekend.

The Soviet Embassy in Tokyo has been one of the main targets of the right-wingers' hooters and their blaring martial music. But the extreme nationalists — who number just 120,000, according to Japan's National Police Agency — do not always stop at making a nuisance of themselves. Sometimes they kill people.

In May last year Mr Tomohiro Kojiro, a reporter in the Osaka bureau of the *Asahi Shimbun*, Japan's leading daily newspaper, was killed when a right-wing extremist marched into his office and began firing a shotgun. The newspaper's crime was to write critically about the Yasukuni shrine, a memorial to Japan's war dead.

Ironically the extremists' trucks had already fallen silent, before the Government officially banned their hectoring, out of respect for Emperor Hirohito, who has been critically ill in the Imperial Palace in Tokyo since September.

They must have been grateful for the opportunity to strike up the band in Nagasaki, out of Tokyo's earshot.

The Mayor of Nagasaki, who now has to tolerate chants of "God punish Motoshima" from the trucks parked outside his municipal offices, says: "I have never felt in such danger. There are threats hinting that they will harm my family or grandchildren."

Although nobody will admit it, rumours suggest that the mood of solemnity that has hushed Japan since the Emperor fell ill — politicians have cancelled fund-raising parties, companies have cancelled ostentatious year-end celebrations, weddings have been postponed — owes much to their fear of reprisals by the right.



Mr Motoshima: Dared to query Emperor's war role. Nobody knows who is next on the list.

In August shots were fired at the house of Mr Hiromasa Ezoe, the former chairman of Recruit, an information and property company at the hub of a share-profiteering scandal. A right-wing group claimed responsibility.

Mr Ezoe has been in hospital ever since, even though there appears to be little wrong with him when dinner appointments demand an evening's leave.

Rumours suggest that at least part of the reason he stays in hospital is fear of attacks from right-wingers who claim that he has somehow betrayed Japan.

Italy gets tough on illegal immigrants

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Italy has introduced a new, tough policy towards immigrants by turning back a boat crammed to the gunwales with Algerians and Senegalese, one of many clandestine parties of workers destined for the underground economy.

The move marks the first, controversial step towards regulating the flow of Third World immigrants into Europe, and reflects a general tightening of border controls in the run-up to the Single European Market in 1992.

The motor boat *Caradoc*, which embarked at Tunis, had been at sea for a week. It had intended to dock at Trapani in Sicily, but was stopped by Italian border police, recently placed on a high level of alert.

Between 1,500 and 1,500 illegal immigrants arrive in Sicily on the Tunis ferry each week. Others dock at Genoa. A maritime police officer in Sicily said yesterday: "They have been coming here for more than 15 years. But before it was mainly Tunisians, 200 or 300 a week. For the past year it has been five times that number — Algerians, Turks

and Africans. So now we have permission to tighten up, especially on the Senegalese."

The decision to increase immigration controls results from an agreement between West Germany, France and the Benelux countries to close their borders before 1992.

The accord makes visas obligatory for people from certain "high-risk" emigration countries and provides for fairly drastic follow-up action. Carriers, for example, will be obliged to take passengers' back if their travel documents are not in order.

The clampdown is an uncomfortable step for most Italians, despite a sharp increase in racist incidents in the past year which seems to reflect growing tension between immigrants and locals.

Italy has always been liberal in its immigration policies and border controls have been lax. More than 100,000 new immigrant workers were given legal status in the past two years, and there are several hundreds of thousands working illegally, quietly tolerated by the police.

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González defies left and rules out early elections

Spain brought to a standstill as police clash with strikers

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Unio leaders brought Spao to a standstill yesterday in the country's first general strike for 54 years...



Running the gamut: A department store employee, aided by struggling riot police, fighting her way through a picket line...

Running the gamut: A department store employee, aided by struggling riot police, fighting her way through a picket line as one of the few people to go to work in Madrid yesterday.

Hanoi withdraws more troops

Khmer Rouge still casts shadow over Cambodia

From Humphrey Hawksley, Ho Chi Minh City

Vietnam, devastated by more than four decades of war and economically isolated from the West, is this week showing an acceptable public face and withdrawing thousands of troops from neighbouring Cambodia...



Pol Pot: Remains dominant in Khmer Rouge leadership.

Zimbabwe journal defies minister to expose corruption

From Jan Raath, Harare

A small Zimbabwean provincial newspaper, a national cause célèbre for its independent investigations into government corruption, yesterday defied the threats of a senior Cabinet minister...

Exclusive to Dixons - Unbeatable Minolta Autofocus Zoom Scoop!

Advertisement for Minolta cameras including 'EXTRA TEST DRIVE A TOP-NAME CAMERA', 'Dixons TEST DRIVE OFFER', 'CHINON GENESIS', 'MINOLTA DYNAX 3000i', and 'NEW! PENTAX SF7 ZOOM'.

Advertisement for Minolta 5000 Autofocus SLR with 35-70mm Zoom Lens, featuring a large image of the camera and promotional text like 'SAVE OVER £130' and 'INCLUDES CASE & FILM'.

Lange dismisses his Finance Minister

From Richard Long, Wellington

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, yesterday dismissed his Finance Minister, Mr Roger Douglas, the architect of the Thatcher-like economic reforms...

Advertisement for Dixons Christmas Extra, featuring 'MIRANDA MSIN SLR Camera with 50mm f1.9 Lens' for £99.99 and 'Dixons CHRISTMAS EXTRA' with various offers.

Advertisement for Minolta camera accessories, including 'HITECH FEATURES - SUPERB PICTURES' and 'Complete your Minolta Outfit with this terrific value zoom lens/flashgun package'.

December 14 1988

PARLIAMENT

Ryan extradition refusal offensive, House is told

The reasons given by the Irish Government for not extraditing Father Patrick Ryan on terrorism charges were offensive, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney General, told MPs.

In response to renewed allegations from the Opposition of intransigence on the part of the Prime Minister on the issue, Sir Patrick said, to Conservative cheer, that Mrs Thatcher was expressing a feeling widely held in the country.

After Sir Patrick's statement, Mr John Fraser, an Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, whose request it had been made, said: "One could do without public intransigence and hectoring words, particularly those of the Prime Minister."

It is not much better that pre-trial processes are not conducted under the arc lights but are dealt with, as they would be in this country, quietly and without publicity?

Matters had not been helped by trial by newspaper, which had been fed by the outbursts of the Prime Minister.

Matters were not helped, also, by press briefings by the Crown Prosecution Service, all of which raises the problem of prejudice of a jury.

Sir Patrick said that there was inherent controversy in the procedure of the Irish Attorney General coming to conclusions on what were matters of English law.

It would reject the suggestion that anything the Prime Minister said would cause any prejudice to proceedings. She was entitled to say what she did and was expressing a feeling widely felt throughout the country.

The Irish Attorney General had said in his statement and in a later letter that he believed that prejudice had been caused by matters which had been published.

"I have made clear in my reply that I am confident that if and when Patrick Ryan came to trial in this country, there is no significant reason that any publication of any material

RYAN CASE

would have a detrimental effect on the ability of a jury to give the fair trial that is required in this country.

"Good sense is needed to try to get successful extradition arrangements established.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Burton, C) said that they would be left with two questions when their anger had died down: how determined was the Irish Government to root out terrorism and how would this absurd gesture improve the prospects for the Anglo-Irish agreement (Conservative cheer)?

Sir Patrick said that the Prime Minister had made clear that the Government wished the Anglo-Irish agreement to continue.

"I prefer to take at face value expressions of intent by the Irish Government, including the Irish Attorney General, that it is their desire to take really effective steps against terrorism."

"But I have to observe that yesterday's decision is an obstacle rather than anything that facilitates a really firm attack upon the terrorism that concerns us all."

Mr Mervyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab), a former Northern Ireland Secretary, said that there had been a tragedy of errors on both sides of the Irish Sea, reinforcing attitudes about each side's justice, which had gone on for 500 years.

Would it not be better to stop posturing on all sides and use the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act? It was there to give the Irish a chance to bring this man to trial.

The Attorney should discuss the problem of witnesses and their safety in Dublin and give them a chance to bring this man to trial.

"We may get hot under the collar one way or another, but people on both sides of the border and particularly in the North who have suffered violence over 20 years, are not amused by our attitude. They want something done about men of violence and the legislation is there to be used."

Sir Patrick said that it would be a tragedy if anybody, in the words of the Irish Attorney, sought to be charged with very serious offences, were not brought to trial.

But it was not quite as simple as that. He had to have regard to considerations of the safety of witnesses.

Mr Robert Maclellan, Democrat spokesman on home affairs, said that there were many who would not accept the Irish Attorney General's view that a fair trial is not possible in this country, but who none the less regretted the participation of MPs and particularly the Prime Minister in a hue and cry during the time the Irish Attorney General was considering the matter.

Sir Patrick: I reject any assertion that the Prime Minister took part in or led a hue and cry.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said that the Irish Attorney General's statement was moderate. He could not accept that anyone was guilty until they had been found guilty.

There had been statements in the House that this gentleman was a terrorist before he had been brought before the courts.

Was not the Irish Attorney General correct in saying "how could anyone who is of Irish origin get a fair trial in this country?"

Sir Patrick: He is right in saying that it is fundamental to our system of law that everyone is presumed innocent until they are found guilty.

The statement by the Irish Attorney General supposes that a jury in the case of Patrick Ryan would not abide by that fundamental principle.

Mr Peter Archer (Warley West, Lab) said that the Irish Attorney General had put in doubt the fairness of United Kingdom courts. But, because of comments from official sources and the Prime Minister, no jury, no matter how fair, could be expected to approach this with an open mind.

Sir Patrick agreed that doubt had not been cast on the system. The Irish Attorney General had not referred to the Prime Minister.



Mr Mervyn Rees (left) and Sir Patrick Mayhew, who disagreed in the House over the question of the safety of witnesses

Juries in Britain behave fairly, Attorney General insists

In his statement, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney General, said that yesterday Mr John Murray, the Irish Attorney General, announced that he had on the previous day advised the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána not to endorse the warrants for execution and that in respect of the charges in two of the warrants he had formed the opinion that there was, on the part of the relevant prosecuting authority, a clear intention to prosecute and that such intention was founded on the existence of sufficient evidence.

These were the requirements specified in the Irish Extradition (Amendment) Act, 1987. In relation to the charges in the other two warrants, Mr Murray had not found it necessary to reach any final conclusion because he had concluded that there were Patrick Ryan to be extradited to Britain "it would not be possible for a jury to approach the issue of his guilt or innocence free from bias". That was by reason of what he described as the "extreme nature and content of the prejudicial material published".

Mr Murray had said: "The charges which have been brought against Patrick Ryan are of a most serious kind and they should be investigated by a court. The Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act, 1976, provides a means whereby certain serious offences committed outside this jurisdiction may be tried here. Such a trial may, under Irish law, take place before a court of three judges without a jury. Heavy penalties are prescribed by Irish law for those offences."

Mr Murray had told him personally of his decision a few hours earlier.

"For my part, I find this outcome extremely disappointing (Conservative cheer), and the reasons given for it regrettable and offensive (renewed cheer). The reason is also singularly surprising since speculation about the fairness of any resulting trial by a jury in England is not one of the functions which the Irish Attor-

ney is directed by this very recent Act to undertake.

"I readily acknowledge that the question is one for Irish and not English law, but I also note the doubts in this regard expressed today in leading articles in *The Irish Times* and *Irish Independent*."

Yesterday morning he had informed Mr Murray that "I rejected his thesis that Patrick Ryan would be denied a fair trial."

"Juries in England are invariably instructed that they must decide the case only on the evidence they have heard and seen in the trial. In every appropriate case, that is to say cases of any notoriety, they are directed to disregard whatever they may have heard or seen elsewhere."

"In my experience juries heed these directions scrupulously, with the fairness one expects in the ordinary men and women of our country (Conservative cheer)."

"Whatever may have been published anywhere - and Mr Murray had before yesterday at no time raised with me any anxiety about any publication - I am entirely confident that if, and when, Patrick Ryan were to come to trial in England, there would be no significant risk that such publicity would affect a jury's ability or will to try him fairly."

"As to the possible trial of Patrick Ryan in the Republic of Ireland, as the Prime Minister said yesterday, we do not absolutely exclude that, but only two of the four charges seem to be covered by the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act. Additionally, there would be grave anxieties over the security of witnesses, whom we could not compel to go to the Republic; and if the case accordingly failed for insufficiency of evidence, we could not subsequently try Patrick Ryan in our own jurisdiction."

"These are major disadvantages inherent in an option which we had every right not to prefer to that of extradition."

Unleaded petrol praised

The two million motorists driving cars that could take unleaded petrol should be aware of the contribution they could make to reducing pollution by changing to the new fuel, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said during Commons questions.

"The number of petrol stations selling unleaded petrol is increasing rapidly. By the end of this year it is expected that one in four refuellings will take place at a petrol station at which unleaded petrol is available."

"Further measures to promote the use of unleaded petrol are co-ordinated by the Unleaded Petrol Group."

'Vote Labour and pay'

The community charge in Conservative-controlled local authorities this year would have been £196.40 and in Labour-controlled authorities, £294.40, Mr John Gummer, Minister for Local Government, said during questions.

He was responding to Mr Antony Marlow (Northampton North, C), who said: "He is a fair man and a Christian and should make voters aware that the cost of voting Labour at the next local election could be £100 a vote."

Mr Gummer had said that he would make every effort to inform voters that profligate spending by local authorities would lead to high community charges.

Mr Christopher Mallin (Sunderland South, Lab) has seen recent reports that poll the Almighty for (laughter).

Mr David Binns, an Opposition spokesman on environment, asked how much the Government would spend on profligate propaganda about the poll tax, including a leaflet just issued, and whether he would take action against Lady Porter, leader of Westminster City Council, because the voters there had had to spend £5.5 million to recoup after the scandalous sale of cemeteries for 15p.

He asked whether that action could be coupled with a surcharge of Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State for Health, for the £500,000 she had cost the country in opening her mouth once too often.

Mr Gummer: No money will be spent by this Government on propaganda.

POLL TAX

tax will result in the transfer of about £800 million from the North to the South. Can he, as a Christian, say how it can be justified to take it from the North and transfer it to the richer?

Mr Gummer: He is mistaken in his reports. The business rate will transfer nearly £900 million from South to North.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C): Will he ensure that no expenditure on protecting egg farmers is counted as profligate?

Mr Gummer (a former Minister of State for Agriculture): Sometimes when one is moved from one department to another, one has much to thank

Minister one of the great poisoners, says MP

Irish sea, and that was left out of the question.

This was the only country dumping massive amounts of sewage sludge into the North Sea. Thirty per cent of Britain's poisonous sewage sludge was dumped there. "This minister will go down in history as one of Britain's great poisoners."

Mr Bottomley said that Mr Roberts's question was an example of air pollution. The Conservative Party believed in action not words, action based on sound scientific evidence.

Sewage sludge was what remained after the treatment of sewage. One had to find the best practicable environmental option.

Of course, river discharges into the North Sea from Britain were only 20 per cent. The River Mersey, the most polluted river basin in Europe, went into the

POLLUTION

2,000 substances which were most damaging to the waterways and was moving towards ending incineration and dumping at sea as well as participating in the scientific task force.

Mr Roberts said that the minister and Conservative MPs had proved that they were totally complacent about the pollution this country was putting into the North Sea.

Britain was bringing forward a clear plan of action. It had brought forward the "red list" of

What could a domestic consumer, unsatisfied with the service of his supply company in comparison with other companies, do about it? Nothing except continue to take their electricity.

The Opposition was looking at the Bill with growing gloom. While it was attractive to the Treasury and to the greater glory of the Secretary of State for Energy (Mr Cecil Parkinson), and maybe even a few shareholders looking for a quick profit, there was nothing in it for the ordinary consumer and nothing for the nation.

A romantic offer for lovers of luxury



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Electricity Bill wins second reading

The following report of the second reading debate in the Commons on the Electricity Bill appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Government's key privatization measure, the Electricity Bill, was read a second time by 304 votes to 238 - Government majority, 66.

The Commons also rejected by 316 to 239 a Scottish National Party amendment, rejecting second reading because the Bill failed to introduce effective competition, particularly in Scotland.

Resuming debate on second reading, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said that there could not be perfect competition in the electricity generation and supply industries, but he rejected what he said was the Labour argument: "There is not perfect competition, monopoly was preferable. Such a proposition was out in the national interest."

He said that there was double the necessary generating capacity in Scotland. That showed that state control was not the route to a rational distribution

of generating capacity. Such mis-matches were inevitable as long as there was political interference. The industry must be allowed to take its own investment decisions.

A significant capital restructuring of the industry would be required in Scotland quite different from that in England and Wales. That was a consequence of the over-provision of capacity that had left a high level of debt. The Bill

allowed the debt to be converted to equity but no decision had been taken on that yet.

Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said that the electricity industry in Scotland had been efficient, well managed and successful in recent years.

There might be some marginal advantage in privatization for the large industrial consumer, but for all others and particularly the domestic consumer the talk of comparative competition would be an empty and rather cruel nonsense.

POWER

With an electorate of 558,000, it contains seven Westminster constituencies controlled by the Conservatives. Highlighting Labour's decline in the southern shires, at the last general election the SDP-Liberal Alliance came second in five seats with Labour taking runner-up position in the two Southampton constituencies.

The M3 acts as a spine, slicing through the Hampshire countryside and bringing in its wake high-tech industries attracted by fast links with both London and the docks.

Agriculture remains an important factor of the local economy, but during the past 25 years its importance in employment terms has declined as opportunities opened in lighter industries and the service sector.

Southampton never developed the heavy industrial base of northern seaports, but it has a traditional sector of industry including the assembly of Ford transit vans and a tyre factory.

A large proportion of the people are employed in defence



related industries, and Basingstoke, once a small market town, has been transformed into the "Dallas of the Downs" because of the glossy institutions of corporate American buildings that house insurance and computer company offices.

Half of the electorate, which has grown by 8.1 per cent since 1984, are considered middle-class, with 64 per cent in service employment and 58 per cent owning their own homes.

Getting to grips with the constituency and achieving publicity has been a big task for the candidates.

Cabinet ministers have come and gone with hardly a mention in the local media. Public meetings have been poorly attended, though old troopers can still pull them in: Barbara Castle attracted more than 100 to a meeting that by common consent was the best of the campaign.

Mr Kellet-Bowman, a business consultant, is favourite to win the seat held by the Conservative with a majority of 44,821 votes with a 51 per cent turnout in 1984. But, such is the apathy, that some predict a turnout at worst in single figures or at best in the high teens.

The Conservatives emphasized the need for Britain to set the European agenda and placed particular emphasis on the opportunities opening with 1992.

Mr Kellet-Bowman said: "It is now no longer a matter of export or die. It is a matter of seizing the opportunity. Many firms already have, but the smaller companies need to be taken to the wall."

While Mr Kellet-Bowman emphasises the business opportunities, Labour is playing its traditional strength by pointing

S Africa whites 'risk suicide'

South Africa's three million white people needed to be convinced that they were sitting on a time bomb which could explode at any moment, Lord Goodman (Ind) said during a debate on southern Africa in the Lords.

It required a masterly approach to influence that tiny, silly community that they are committing suicide, he said.

Lord Goodman, who had recently visited South Africa as vice-chairman of the British Council, said that more than 30 million people there were condemned to a life of degradation, shame and deprivation because three million people required it.

Most of that minority were not wicked; they were just complacent, blind and terrified.

\$100m grant for Nigeria

The UK is to make available a grant of \$100 million (£53 million) to Nigeria in 1989, subject to approval by the International Monetary Fund of a standby agreement and contributions from other donors.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, announcing the grant in a written answer, said that it demonstrated the UK's interest in the health of the Nigerian economy and its willingness to assist the Nigerian adjustment programme.

Immigration controls

The British Government intends next spring to introduce a single immigration channel for all EEC citizens, including Britons, entering the country, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said in a written reply.

"The aim of the change is to reduce, as far as possible, the levels of checks on EEC nationals entering the United Kingdom without disturbing our ability to maintain adequate controls on nationals of third countries."

Salmonella test plan

The Government is considering measures requiring processing plants making chicken feed to test each day's production for salmonella, and to make the results available to the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Richard Ryder, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, said in a written reply.

Parking for disabled

There were about 840,000 holders of orange badges giving vehicle-parking privileges for disabled people in March last year, more than a 14 per cent increase on the same time a year earlier, Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said in a written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Home Office; Prime Minister; Security Service Bill, second reading; Lords (3): Road Traffic Bill, second reading; Debate on EEC package travel.

Correction

London Underground's investment in the current financial year is 60 per cent more in real terms than in 1984-85, out 6 per cent, as Lord Brabazon of Tara, Under Secretary of State for Transport, was reported as saying in Monday's debate.

European Parliament by-election: Hampshire Central

Europe is still somewhere across the Channel

By Richard Ford Political Correspondent

Amid the celery from Spain and tomatoes from Holland, and with a bemused Breton onion seller standing by his bike, Mr Edward Kellet-Bowman was having difficulty promoting his vision of Europe.

The Conservatives and two centre-party candidates in today's European Parliament by-election in Hampshire Central insisted that the electorate was intelligent and knowledgeable about the EEC.

Unfortunately, there were few such voters to be found in Alton Market Square. "Sweetheart, this man wants to talk to you", exclaimed Dame Elaine Kellet-Bowman, the Conservative MP for Lancaster and wife of the Hampshire Central Tory candidate.

Before Mr Kellet-Bowman could advance, perhaps a more authentic English view of things European was shouted by a market trader: "You're wasting your time here, darling. It's all beautiful jobs for the boys, ain't it?"

Dame Elaine muttered a pro-

test that Europe was important as she and her husband retreated in search of another well informed voter.

But the woman they found also had non-European things on her mind - the spread of estate agents and building societies in the Hampshire market town's main street. Yet another was worried about the rebellious tendencies of his local MP, Mr Michael Bates.

As Labour's agent, Mr Tony Beirne, candidly admitted: "There is a bit more awareness of the European Community, but for the majority of people it's still something which is on the other side of the Channel, not to be worried about."

Campaigning for elections to the European Parliament has always been an uphill struggle. But the five candidates seeking to inherit the seat made vacant by the death of Mr Basil de Ferranti must also contend with a vast constituency and the forthcoming Christmas season.

Sprawling northwards from Southampton, Hampshire Central stretches to the London dormitory towns of Basingstoke and Farnborough, taking in

Eastleigh, Winchester and Aldershot.

With an electorate of 558,000, it contains seven Westminster constituencies controlled by the Conservatives. Highlighting Labour's decline in the southern shires, at the last general election the SDP-Liberal Alliance came second in five seats with Labour taking runner-up position in the two Southampton constituencies.

The M3 acts as a spine, slicing through the Hampshire countryside and bringing in its wake high-tech industries attracted by fast links with both London and the docks.

Agriculture remains an important factor of the local economy, but during the past 25 years its importance in employment terms has declined as opportunities opened in lighter industries and the service sector.

Southampton never developed the heavy industrial base of northern seaports, but it has a traditional sector of industry including the assembly of Ford transit vans and a tyre factory.

A large proportion of the people are employed in defence

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring a car and the text 'Wii'.



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SPECTRUM

Anne — a very practical princess

THE TIMES PROFILE THE PRINCESS ROYAL

According to a tale current among senior officers of the British Army of the Rhine, the Princess Royal was recently visiting troops when there was the inevitable bomb scare at the BAOR headquarters at Rheindahlen. "I'm sorry, ma'am," said a brass-hat on the telephone, "we will have to evacuate the building."

"You can evacuate the building if you wish," retorted the voice of the Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals, the Royal Scots and the 1420 Huskars. "but I am having a (expletive deleted) bath. I have every intention of finishing it."

Ten years ago the public perception of the Queen's only daughter was of a rude, sulky and intolerant young woman rather fonder of horses than of people. Newspapers had a habit of labelling her "Her Royal Haughtiness", or "Princess Scourps".

When she visited the United States with her brother Charles in 1972, a Washington paper reported: "The Prince is full of pep, the Princess acts puffed."

In 1977 a women's magazine polled its readers on who were the most popular members of the Royal Family. The Queen, naturally, led the field (it being her jubilee year), while Anne came second bottom, saved from total disgrace only by the even lower esteem in which the readers held her Aunt Margaret.

expenses they were being charged by their reptiles in the field.

The royal ratpack was therefore, *faut de mieux*, obliged to follow Anne around the refugee camps in search of something to write about. They were amazed at what they saw. They found a young woman not only quite undeterred by conditions of unspeakable filth and deprivation, but one surprisingly determined and well-informed on the subject of aid to sick and starving children, yet unsentimental and practical in the face of human indignity.

Those who accompanied her on a Save the Children tour of the Far East last year recall the sight of her in a foul camp outside Bangkok, walking on duckboards across a lake of raw sewage, when a 12-year-old crippled wretch stumbled towards her with his arms outstretched. Briefly, she bent down and hugged him... the brisk, no-nonsense facade is sometimes seen to have its cracks.

In the year that she became president, donations to Save the Children totalled £3.5 million; last year they reached £35.9 million. If the greatest tug at the public strings of heart and purse was the Ethiopian famine, Anne's 18 years of work to raise the charity's public profile should not be underestimated.

Children will always attract sympathy, patronage and money; criminals not so. That Anne does not only take on glamorous presidencies is evident by her active patronage of the Butler Trust, a charity which gives awards for good work in the prison service. In the last year she has been inside many a jail, including the "Nutcracker Suite", the special unit for particularly hard cases at Barmley, in Glasgow. The rapport between Princess and prisoners was tangible.

Anna Humphrey, the administrator of the trust, says of the Princess: "We invited her to be our patron because she was so down-to-earth. We knew she would care about the subject in a practical sort of way without being soft. Staff and inmates believe in her — they know she understands them. She somehow seems very real, which is unusual in a person in her position. In a word, she has street-cred."



She also enjoys a high degree of saddle-cred, although not as much as her husband, whom three-day equestrians regard as akin to a god on horseback. No amount of high birth would have won her a place at the 1976 Montreal Olympics without the attendant skills. Now that she has retired from serious competition, she derives her relaxation from the thrills and dangers of amateur jockeying.

She is not the country's best lady amateur, but a capacity for quick learning under her trainer, David Nicholson, put her sixth out of 130 at the end of this year's flat season. Her greatest ally is temperament, the same sort of unflappable nerve which helped Piggott to nine Derby wins. Many an amateur race has been lost by a sudden rush of blood to the jockey's head. Her Montreal experience made

her an inevitable choice for presidency of the British Olympic Association in 1983 and she has just been returned unopposed for a further four-year term, having become in addition one of Britain's two delegates to the International Olympic Committee.

Colleagues at the BOA say of her: "She is very aware of the needs of competitors, having been one herself. She has an incisive mind, often comes up with good ideas, and is very much aware of current issues." In the wake of the drugs scandals in South Korea earlier this year, she devoted her presidential address to the Olympic association in October to imploring future competitors to make a clean breast to their doctors of doubtful substances they might be swallowing.

Not for her her brother's introspective fretting about the imperfect state of the world. She sees imperfections, but her approach is to go out and do something about them. She is absolutely her father's daughter, and his favourite child. She shares his belief that the Royal Family must be seen to be earning its keep. Last year her total of 367 engagements fulfilled at home and 337 abroad far exceeded that of any other member of "the firm", with the exception of the Queen.

While her elder brother may wish devoutly at times that he had been born somewhat else, Anne has been more successful at accepting her lot while distancing herself from the royal circus and carving out a life of her own. There is no clearer indication of a determinedly independent mind. She declined all honours and

titles for herself, her husband and her children until, at the age of 37, she finally accepted the traditional title of Princess Royal. She rarely socializes with her brothers or their wives, with whom she has little in common, but at least the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York have done her the favour of drawing away the spotlight of silver publicity.

She has not been asked to be god-parent to any of the current crop of royal children, and she declined to attend the wedding this summer of her cousin James Ogilvy, son of Princess Alexandra. Acting in the family soap opera is not for her — her decision to go on a rabbit shoot rather than attend the christening of Prince Henry remains legendary.

Social life revolves around the gentleman-farming community of Gloucestershire, into which she

- BIOGRAPHY
1950: Born Clarence House, August 15. Educated at Benenden
1970: President, Save The Children
1971: Nominated Sportswoman of the Year
1978: Married Captain Mark Phillips, two children, Pater Mark Andrew (born 1977) and Zara Anne Elizabeth (born 1981)
1978: Montreal Olympics, member of British three-day event team
1981: Chancellor, London University
1983: President of the British Olympic Association
1988: President of the International Equestrian Federation
1987: Fellow of the Royal Society. Created Princess Royal
1988: Delegate, International Olympic Committee

and her husband slip easily. One of her favourite havens, especially during Mark's long and frequent absences abroad, is the farmhouse kitchen of her in-laws, and she was greatly upset by the death of Mark's mother earlier this year.

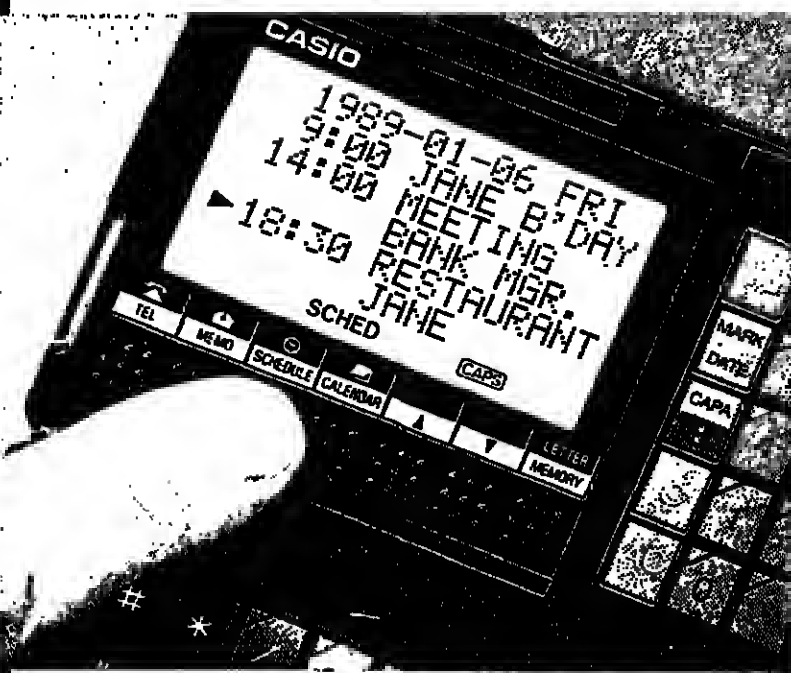
Although she claims not greatly to like children, she has been successful at bringing up her own two — Peter, now aged 11, and Zara, aged seven — in something reasonably close to normal family circumstances, while not shirking from occasionally smacking their bottoms in public view. In the farmhouses of Gloucestershire, she is regarded by the children of her social circle as a brisk but kindly aunt who is happy to make them lathered toast.

Auberon Waugh once described her as a woman "whose poisonous spite could stop a camel in its tracks at 20 paces and blind a Press photographer for life at twice the distance". Those more kindly disposed would regard her more as brisk and efficient, with no time for irrelevances, and a dangerously low flashpoint when her privacy is invaded or her hard work demeaned. In private she is perfectly charming, witty, sharp and solicitous, and much the intellectual superior of her husband.

She is a royal in the old style, perhaps among the last, with a straightforward view that privileged birth must be paid for with work. And yet, behind all her briskness and competence, one can detect the ghost of wistfulness, of some corner of life unfulfilled. Somehow one is reminded that this is the great-granddaughter of Queen Mary. Except, of course, that Queen Mary was never known to utter a four-letter word.

Alan Hamilton

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Ireland's crumbling heritage

If you thought we had problems defining our "heritage" ... spare a thought for the Irish. A national acropolis about the English "palaces" means they have a habit of rejecting virtually everything which post-dates the Book of Kells and, as a result, the few stately homes still standing are decrepit.

Early in the last century there were up to 2,000 grand houses in what is now the Republic, all built for the Anglo-Irish nobility. From the 1870s onwards this group began a long-term decline and then, in the 1920s, arson attacks by nationalists reduced the housing stock further. Today, the number of houses which have survived with their family portraits, original furnishings and memorabilia intact is estimated at about 30. Historians believe it might take only one more generation for those to disappear.

Groups such as the Irish Georgian Society and the Irish Architectural Archive are campaigning for conservation of the houses and the Irish government has just set up a heritage commission. But there is no property-owning National Trust similar to that in Scotland and England. Irish exports laws do nothing to slow down the drain of antiques out of the country.

Just opened in Dublin — and scheduled for transfer to London on February 9 — is Vanishing Country Houses of Ireland, an exhibition calling attention to the crisis. Ironically, the sponsors, and the hosts in London, are Christie's who by definition have a professional predatory interest in the houses' contents. Their latest sale of those contents totalled IR£51,928 at Mountstuart, County Meath, last September.

The book accompanying the exhibition includes an entertaining ramble down memory lane by Desmond FitzGerald, the Knight of Glin, one of a few remaining ancient Irish peers and Christie's representative in Ireland. (His "son", Glin Castle, is safely intact.)

Recalling the material luxury that was once Anglo-Ireland, (all that crumbled garden statuary, all those windows and beds "draped with the elaborate remains of Empire style curtains"), he also relates endearing tales of

both comedy and drama. In one, his ancestor, John Fitzmaurice, keeps a series of women in cottages despite attempts by the local priest to "curb the oriental proclivities of his aristocratic behaviour". In another, Lady Masekerry so incenses her fellow parishioners by taking her Pekinese to Mass that they burn down her home, Springfield Castle, County Limerick. A Commander Mousell of Terroe is described as spending the 1940s "smoking innumerable cigars" as he "retreated from room to room

as ceilings yielded progressively to the rain". Illustrations are poignant, if picturesque, showing mansions both in their prime and now as shells. Entries give a brief history

Sarah Jane Checkland

with words such as "demolished in 1984 ... now a ruin ... destroyed by fire". The most shocking example is Powerscourt, Enniskerry, an outstanding Palladian house which was restored in 1974 and destroyed by fire the day after completion.

Acknowledging that it would be anachronistic to reinstate

the gentry, FitzGerald says that it would be in the interests of Ireland's second biggest industry — tourism — to save a selection of its great homes. He argues the case for government funding, suggesting the State Lottery as a source, and says it should be recognized that, even if the upper classes were "foreign", the craftsmen and the builders were Irish.

But it seems that unless St Patrick intervenes with a miracle (or some Irish Americans do so with money), Ireland is doomed to complete its process of decay. As Kevin Myers, a journalist on the Irish Times says, soon all that will remain will be "the ornaments of the Republic: mock-Georgian Spanish South Fork-type bungalows".



Susan is just like any other 40 year old... but she lives under the shadow of diabetes.

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THE SHADOW OF DIABETES

BRITISH DIABETIC ASSOCIATION

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HEALTH

American hospitals have special units for disaster victims. James Bone asks if Britain needs them

When two passenger trains carrying 700 people collided on the Hell Gate bridge in New York City in 1984, the emergency services knew exactly what to do. Rather than ferry all 50 injured people to the nearest hospital, ambulance crews immediately identified the 20 most serious casualties and distributed them, by helicopter, to special units across the city. Within 20 minutes all were receiving intensive treatment, and no hospital had to cope with more than three cases of severe injury. Only one person died.

New York, like several other large American cities, operates a network of trauma centres to deal with seriously injured patients, especially after a disaster. Certain designated hospitals operate special units at which any emergency assistance is available from experienced staff 24 hours a day. Last month a report by the Royal College of Surgeons called for changes in accident and emergency services in Britain, including the establishment of specialized trauma centres.

At St George's hospital, Tooting, where the victims of the Clapham Junction rail crash are being treated in the new accident and emergency department, Don Wijetunge, the senior consultant surgeon in emergency services, said yesterday that the speciality of trauma was neglected in Britain. Although the hospital's disaster plan had worked well, communications were flawed, he said, and emergency services were not as geared up to rapid, efficient responses as they might be.

America's trauma centre system was developed after the Vietnam War, where the army developed an effective method of treating seriously wounded soldiers. The first civilian centre was established in Maryland in 1973, and has since been copied in several other Western countries. In Ulster, seven of those injured at Enniskillen were flown by helicopter to specialist units. The system has even been copied by the Soviet army in Afghanistan. The gist of the system is "to get the right patients to the right place at the right time."

"We call it the Golden Hour," says Dr Alexander Kuehl, head of New York's Emergency Medical Service. "If you can get the severely traumatized patient stabilized and into the operating room within the first hour, the survival chances are 75-80 per cent. If you wait until the second hour, the survival rate goes down to about 30 per cent."

New York, with around 8,000 trauma patients a year, boasts the most developed system in America.



The emergency ward: Nurse Clare O'Neill in one of the trauma rooms at Bellevue Hospital, New York City. "I think I can cope with anything now"

Ready for the worst

The ambulance network run by the Emergency Medical Service is closely co-ordinated with the city's patchwork of public, private and church hospitals. The local government has classified 60 of the city's 80 hospitals as fit to receive casualties, and 13 of these operate special trauma centres to which the most serious cases are taken. No New Yorker is ever more than a 20 minute ambulance journey from a trauma centre.

Every ambulance carries two paramedics, who can perform any task short of surgery, or two Emergency Medical Technicians, who can provide basic life support. The system operates on two radio frequencies - one for routine work, one for emergencies.

On arrival, the crew first takes the patient's blood pressure, then conducts a "top to toe" survey. Based on the patient's breathing, circulation and state of consciousness, the crew allots a "trauma score" between 0 and 15. Patients who fall below 8 on the scale have little chance of survival whatever help is given to them, while those over 13 will almost certainly survive. The battle is for the third of patients who

register a trauma score of between 8-13. Ambulance crews throughout the city have instructions to rush such patients to one of the designated trauma centres. They call the work "Scoop and Run."

At Bellevue Hospital, one of the busiest trauma centres in New York, it is obvious that the system is tried and tested. A pristine two-bed trauma room is ready 24 hours a day, fully stocked with instruments for emergency surgery and attended by a five-person team. There are pre-packaged surgical kits so that doctors can open a patient's chest, head or throat immediately on arrival. Patients arrive on a stretcher that has an X-ray machine built in, so they need not be moved.

"If I were badly hurt, this is where I would want to be brought," says Clare O'Neill, a trauma room nurse from Birkenhead who has worked in the United States for the past 16 years. "Everything that can be done is done, and it is done quickly. At other places it could be done in time, but you might be dead while you're waiting."

As soon as an ambulance picks up a trauma patient bound for Bellevue, the crew radios ahead to warn the unit. The five doctors on standby are summoned from their duties elsewhere in the hospital, and within minutes of the patient's arrival have performed any critical surgery and sent the injured person into one of two operating theatres specially reserved for trauma cases.

The key to the trauma centre system is that every nurse and doctor becomes so accustomed to dealing with severe injuries that they rarely make mistakes. Bellevue's trauma room handled about 1,000 patients last year, giving its staff a wealth of experience.

Doctor Ameen Ramzi, of the Maryland Shock-Trauma Centre in Baltimore, which treats almost 3,000 trauma cases annually, estimates that a trauma unit needs at least 300 to 500 patients a year to justify its existence. There is about one trauma patient a year for every 1,000 people, so that a trauma centre requires a population base of between 300,000 to 500,000 people. By that reckoning, London would require about 15 or 16 designated centres. "You British have the

person power in the hospitals to do it," says Dr Goldfrank.

Americans say that the structure of the National Health Service would make it easy to set up a trauma centre system in Britain, so that local hospitals are not overwhelmed during disasters. Because health care in Britain is overwhelmingly controlled by the state, it would be possible to assign certain tasks to certain hospitals.

Another major stumbling block is also less important in Britain: money. Although many large American cities now have trauma centres, the system has faltered in several places because of the cost. Providing trauma care is, by its very nature, loss-making. Treatment for severe injuries - available to all, including the poor and uninsured - is very expensive and recuperation can be long. In Los Angeles and Miami the trauma centre system has broken down because private hospitals did not find it profitable.

As Dr Goldfrank puts it: "If you are a private hospital and you like to take care of Queen Elizabeth and you don't want to take care of the man who has frozen on the street, you don't set up a trauma section."

Kiss and tell

A close look at glandular fever may help solve some other medical mysteries

A planned study on "the teenager's kissing disease", glandular fever, could unlock the mysteries of post-viral fatigue syndrome, also known as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME).

Dr Peter White, locum senior lecturer in psychiatry at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, hopes it will be a questionnaire, drawn up by White and a member of the public - Margaret Durban, aged 64 - attempts to discover why some people can take years to shake off the effects of ME, while most bounce back to normal in a few months.

"Everybody may know somebody who has had glandular fever," White says, "but not everyone is aware that some patients appear to spend years on an on-off recovery course, often with depressive side effects."

The difference between our research and that on ME," he explains, "is that we shall be looking at a specific illness and its after-effects."

The questionnaire will complement White's almost completed study which traces the progress of the disease for six months in 140 people. The study looks at the effects of stress, bed-rest, antibiotics and anti-depressants on sufferers.

Letters and paperwork detailing these effects are piled high in the dining-room of Margaret Durban's home in Sydenham. Five years ago, when she was in her last year as a modern languages lecturer, she had first-hand experience of the illness. She nursed a student, who was laid so low for so long that their university careers were in jeopardy.

"Stress, lack of bed-rest and a conscious urge to get back to work appeared to be common scenarios," she recalls. "In certain cases there appeared to be a lack of understanding on the part of their GPs. If patients did not recover completely within, say six months, they were told that it was all in the mind or that they were being lazy."

She wrote to university medical officers for details of any long-term recoveries, and

to discover how common the virus was among students and how many had had to abandon their courses. On the whole the replies were not encouraging. "Some reported an average of two cases every week; others did not have figures. One medical officer grandly told me there were no prolonged effects of the virus."

Durban next advertised in the ME newsletter. She asked for replies only from those who had first been diagnosed as suffering from the Epstein-Barr virus, a member of the herpes family. Now, more than 100 letters later, she fiercely guards the writers' identities, but can talk of "but not everyone is aware that some patients appear to spend years on an on-off recovery course, often with depressive side effects."

Although the Epstein-Barr virus is most commonly contracted (and is symptomless) at around the age of five, it can strike well after the teenage/university years and has been recorded in sufferers aged up to 80.

Margaret Durban's case histories are not, she says, composed of drips, wets or wallies. There is the former sport-playing schoolboy, for instance, whose near constant symptoms of depression and fatigue have stayed with him for 24 years; the mother of two young children whose nine years of exhaustion, painful joints and irritability have had blissful remission only while pregnant and breast-feeding.

"I certainly don't want to scare people who have caught glandular fever," Durban says. "I want to tell those who are taking much longer than, say, six months or a year to get better, that they are not alone. Their symptoms are not just in their imagination."

Readers who have been diagnosed as suffering from glandular fever and who have taken longer than six months to make a full recovery are invited to take part in St Bartholomew's study, via Margaret Durban, send a SAE to Glandular Fever Research Project, PO Box 767, London

Vivien Tomlinson
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'If patients did not recover in six months, they were told that they were lazy'

Heartening developments

Fourteen years ago Clive Ashby, the former English rugby seven-half, swapped an interest in the leather pill-shaped ball for shiny oval tablets. Clive, aged 37, was playing with his usual verve for an English veterans team when he developed a sudden gripping, heavy pain in his chest which rapidly spread down his arms. It was so severe that he was unable to stand, and vomited on the pitch. Team-mate Billy Trendwell, a dentist, suspected that Clive was having a coronary thrombosis and took him immediately to a local doctor, another rugby-playing crosby, who confirmed that it was a heart attack.

Since then Clive has had two transient ischaemic attacks, the minor fleeting strokes made famous by Lord White-law's troubles last Christmas, and more recently a second thrombosis. However, he is no more inclined to capitulate to illness than he was to the Scottish forwards at Murrayfield, and so after extensive bypass surgery he is back at his managing director's desk.

The root cause of his arterial trouble is

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

familial hyperlipidaemia. Clive is now taking simvastatin (Zocor), the new cholesterol-lowering drug which acts by inhibiting cholesterol synthesis.

The Ashbys, like many other families, have an hereditary tendency to a high serum cholesterol. Clive's father died at 51 of a pulmonary embolism, a clot in the artery of the lung; his brother Brian, aged 54, has also had a heart bypass, and his younger brother David, MP for North-west Leicestershire, has had a raised cholesterol. Two of Clive's three daughters have a seriously raised cholesterol as well. They are lucky that their blood was tested while they were still teenagers so that they were able to alter their diet and lifestyles to reduce the chances of developing arterial disease in early middle age.

Their generation is fortunate, too, in that if diet, exercise and rejection of tobacco do not lower the cholesterol level to safe limits, there are new drugs just completing clinical trial which will soon become generally available. It is hoped that these will be able to reduce cholesterol levels by 25 to 50 per cent. Zocor, which has been prescribed for Clive, has not passed all its pre-release stages, but if all goes well it will soon become generally available. Unlike earlier cholesterol-lowering drugs it need only be taken once a day, it has no unpleasant taste and seems to be free of the gastro-intestinal side effects which were so unpleasant in earlier drugs taken to lower serum fats.

Zocor interferes with the enzyme systems which manufacture the cholesterol and is a revolutionary advance in the control of heart disease. This means that it is even more important that children (and other close relatives) of people who have had early heart attacks have their blood tested before their arteries also start to become diseased.

TB or not TB?

A glance at the necks of the pro-war generation at any gathering will usually reveal that one or two carry the scars of tubercular

glands removed in childhood. If these patients could be persuaded to have their abdomens X-rayed, some would also show areas of calcification where tubercular glands have healed around their guts.

bovine tuberculosis. Pasteurized milk, routine testing of dairy herds associated with a vigorous slaughter policy, together with an improved standard of living, BCG vaccination against TB, and modern drugs, have meant that this type of tuberculosis is rarely seen today.

Recently, however, a new danger to Britain's dairy herds, and hence public health, has appeared. Red deer, farmed for their meat, have proved to be very susceptible to bovine tuberculosis. The disease, introduced by Hungarian deer brought in to improve British stock, has spread rapidly. In one Sussex herd 75 per cent of the deer, when tested by sensitive blood tests, rather than the less sensitive skin tests adequate for cows, have shown positive results: they either have, or have had, bovine tuberculosis.

Naturalists, doctors, farmers, veterinary surgeons and deer breeders all want stringent measures to be taken to deal with these pools of infection which could spread into, and threaten, wild deer and badgers as well as cattle. They feel that the Government's present proposal to deal with the situation by making TB in deer a notifiable disease, and the infected herd subject to movement restriction orders, is inadequate. The deer farmers want to see a compulsory slaughter with compensation policy introduced. It seems to them to be illogical for the Government to have attempted to annihilate badgers because of their tendency to develop bovine TB, and yet to tolerate it in farmed deer. (Incidentally, properly cooked venison cannot carry the disease.)

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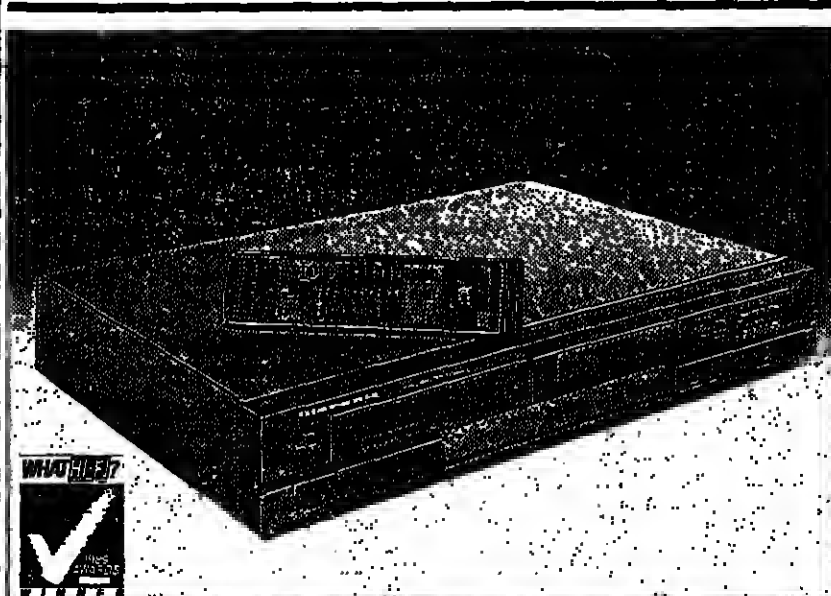
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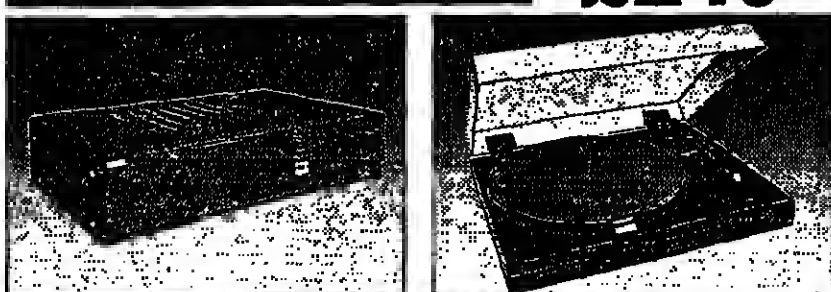
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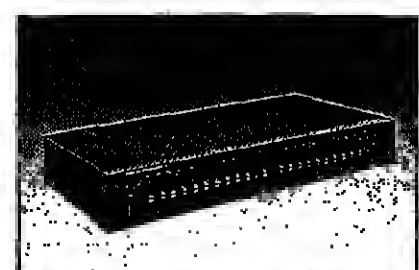
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TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

So what you like about the Duke of Edinburgh, when it comes to addressing life's prime cruces there is no chap I would rather have at my elbow. The First Man - if Denis Thatcher will forgive me - has a knack of winking out the nub of things which leaves the lesser thinker breathless.

Take last Tuesday, when, in one of his jollier flourishes, he drew a remarkable distinction anent the manufacture of meat. The philippic pith was couched, admittedly, in an analogy about wives and prostitutes so convoluted as to leave even the smartest of structuralists crawling on all fours towards the nearest vodka, but his point, when it came, was needle-sharp. The world, according to the great consort, was split up into hunters and butchers: hunters did it for fun, butchers did it for money.

It meant - this is often the way with major truths - little to me at the time. But a week on, it means everything. Last Saturday, I went for the first time in my life, shooting. More accurately - a word for which the day itself turned out to have scant use - I went walking behind a number of gentlemen who had gone shooting.

They were a convivial and charming group, drawn neither from the ornithological gentry who grow misty for the days when George V would shoot his own weight in woodcock before his first cheeroat had dwindled, nor from the yuppie-come-latelies who have learned to fire one-handed in order to remain in unbroken portophone contact with the Hong Kong bourse, but from the genial ranks of decent sporting business folk able respectably to raise £300 for a day's banging away.

Indeed, the whole affair was manifestly businesslike, keynoted by a locale which could hardly have been a further cry from the romantic wildness of the sporting aquatint, sited as it was in the permanent lee of Fawley oil refinery. The day saw eight different drives, but every drive saw Fawley's towering concrete. Since our little platoon was ported from drive to drive in the back of a Land Rover, and since at each halt the vehicle debouched a dozen men in khaki jackets who immediately began firing in the general direction of the oil industry, our party resembled nothing so much as a small band of guerrillas dropped into suburban Hampshire by an unnamed foreign power and committed to striking at the heart of Britain's energy.

What they were firing in the specific direction of, however, was pheasant, rood to die, the hand-fed targets ambled from cover, hopped up briefly in the air, and flapped slowly into a barrage of pellets which accounted, astonishingly, for very few of them. Those struck fell around me to lie like feathered reticules, whereupon highly trained dogs began running away from them. I took Prince Philip's point immediately. It was enormous fun, if you liked that sort of thing.

At the end of the shoot, I was, though a non-combatant, generously given a brace of pheasant, cock and hen strung together at the neck in a rather touching eternal embrace. I put them in the boot. When I arrived home, I hung them on a nail in the garage, and invited my wife to take a look.

"They appear to be full," she said. "Yes, they come down like that," I said expertly. "You have to pluck the outside stuff off and pull the inside stuff out." She went back into the house. I looked at the pheasants for a hit.

BARRY FANTONI



'Let's hope there's no small print preventing them from paying up'

My local butcher, Mr Kingsland, shook his head. "This time of year," he said. "Couldn't touch it. There's just me and the boy."

"Couldn't touch it," said the boy, "this time of year."

"Any other time," said Mr Kingsland. "There's all these turkeys," said the boy. I came out of the shop into West End Lane. It was Monday, and the weather was warm, but the pheasant were all right so far. A few feathers fell out when I put them back in the boot.

I tried four other butchers on the way to my office and three on the way home. It turned out to be this time of year. Only one, the Al Madina in Crawford Street, went mad: simply walking into a halal butcher's with a couple of mouling cadavers can render the entire premises unholy, apparently. You learn something every day.

When I opened the boot on Tuesday afternoon outside Somers & Kirby, Connaught Street, to which a kindly but otherwise unhelpful soul in Selfridge's had directed me, something was definitely up. You did not need to be a hoodlum. I carried them in, at arm's length.

"Could you come back Friday?" said either Somers or Kirby. "Can't promise, mind."

I looked at the pheasants. More feathers fell off.

It is Wednesday, as I write. The pheasants are back on the nail. Ian McCaskill has just said the weather is unseasonably warm, but I already knew.

I have made more phone calls today, and there's something else I know. Which is that the gulf between hunters and butchers would appear to be wider even than the Duke's steely perception can encompass. Butchers don't even do it for money, if someone else has done it for fun.

Dublin

In commenting on the failure of the Ryan extradition request I will start by making a present to those whom the Irish Attorney General's decision infuriated: I think that in blocking an arrest, after he was satisfied that there was a genuine British intention to prosecute backed by adequate evidence, he probably exceeded his legal powers.

Although it is true that he has a general role in representing the public interest, his role in the extradition process is limited. I would think, to examining requests on the specific criteria - clear intention plus sufficient evidence - laid down by the 1987 Extradition (Amendment) Act; and I do not think he can supplement these by further tests related to any one of an indefinite array of constitutional values. This does not mean that such values cannot be invoked in extradition as in any other process; but I think the High Court is the place for doing this.

Even if the warrants had been endorsed and the arrest had taken place, Ryan would still have had two weeks in which to go to that court on either statutory or constitutional grounds; and if necessary, on appeal from it, to the Supreme Court. These courts have in the last 20 years built up a very large

John Kelly explains the thinking behind the extradition refusal

Ryan: why Dublin said no

body of doctrine about citizens' constitutional entitlement to "fair procedures"; and I would be very surprised, on the evidence of the atmosphere generated in Britain in the last two weeks, if they thought that "fair procedures" were assured in the present instance.

That atmosphere arises, to quote the Attorney General, in part from "media attacks on Patrick Ryan's general character, often expressed in intemperate language and frequently in the form of extravagantly worded headlines, and also assertions of his guilt of the offences comprised in the warrants - and, indeed, assertions of his guilt of other offences in respect of which no charges have been brought"; as well as from the similar tenor of words used in the House of Commons to which maximum publicity naturally attached.

How likely is it, after all this, that the ordinary process of jury selection could throw up twelve

jurors with minds still quite open about Patrick Ryan? If either of the Irish superior courts came, as seems to me very likely, to the conclusion that it could not, it would order the prisoner's release. Therefore even if the Attorney General was not entitled to take the line he did on Tuesday, the end result from the British point of view would probably have been the same.

That result ought not to be imputed, as *The Times* leading article of yesterday imputes it, to "political cowardice". The Attorney General, though in practice appointed by the Taoiseach and dismissible by him, is an independent person whose office is defined in the Constitution, and is in no sense subject, in the day-to-day discharge of his functions, to direction from the Government. I know nothing of what goes on in Mr Haughey's cabinet; but I would be sorry to think, and must say I do not believe, that an Attorney General would make so little of his

office as to take orders about how to exercise it. If he has over-exerted his powers on this occasion, I believe it is in response to an honest belief for which in fact quite serious arguments, based on modern Irish constitutional law, can be advanced.

Two other very important matters arise. First, the Attorney General's statement contained the specific charge that not only on this but on a previous occasion the material used in British media presentations of background on pending extradition requests could have come only from some official British source; that he expressed concern about this to the British Attorney General, and that the latter accepted that this concern was justified.

This specific charge calls for a specific response. If this is not forthcoming, or is not satisfactory, the British authorities will appear deliberately to have colluded with the media in

generating the atmosphere which makes the possibility of a fair trial seem so remote.

Secondly, what can now be done, since extradition is ruled out? There remains Ireland's Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act of 1976, under which persons accused of certain offences in Northern Ireland, or (broadly, where explosives are involved) in Britain, can be tried by an Irish court. Here yesterday's leading article is plain wrong, on two counts.

The initiative in invoking this Act lies, as it must lie, with the Northern Ireland and British authorities; and if surprisingly little use has been made of it, it is they and not we who are called on to explain why. The statement that the Act "has not been notably successful in the past", if related to the trials which actually have taken place under it, is nonsense; of 13 persons so tried, 10 have been convicted and eight of those given very heavy sentences.

The readers of *The Times* are told in the same breath that, if media and parliamentary comments have made a fair trial in Britain impossible, they must usually have done so here, where British papers freely circulate and British broadcasts are widely received, so that even an Irish jury "would be bound to be unfairly prejudiced". But juries are not used here in cases where subversive violence is implicated; these go to a special criminal court consisting of three experienced judges, well immunized against taking any notice of noises from tabloids or from parliaments.

The Irish Attorney General, in the closing sentences of his statement, admitted that the charges in this case are most serious, and ought to be tried; and virtually invited the British prosecuting authorities to consider how many of them might be fit to be preferred here under the 1976 Act. If this invitation is neglected, it may be that further adverse conclusions will be drawn here about British good faith; and a further burden placed upon the tender growth of the Hillsborough Agreement.

The author represents Dublin South in the Dail and was a minister and previously Attorney General in Fine Gael-Labour coalition governments.

Mary Dejevsky

Shockwaves from Armenia

Moscow

As Armenians start to rebuild their lives after last week's earthquake, Nikolai Ryzhkov, the prime minister and chairman of the Politburo commission, was saying that insufficient local resources were being directed to the disaster area. The Armenian party leader, Suren Arutyunyan, and his colleagues will also be blamed for any inadequacies found in seismological surveys of the region and in building standards.

So far, judging from official reports, little blame has been attached to the central leadership. The Ryzhkov commission, along with the health minister and the defence minister, Dmitri Yazov, probably represent the biggest concentration of senior officials to arrive so promptly in a Soviet disaster area.

Mr Gorbachev's authority, meanwhile, is undiminished. If anything, it has been enhanced. By cutting short his foreign tour to visit the disaster area and to be seen on television listening to the complaints of survivors and rescue workers, he did something none of his predecessors had ever done: he behaved like a national leader.

Gorbachev personally hand-picked the Politburo commission. Those Politburo members rumoured to be less enthusiastic about his reform programme, Yegor Ligachev and Lev Zaykov in particular,

or all that, during his visit to the disaster area Gorbachev had to parry shouted criticism by earthquake survivors: it was all very well for him to visit Armenia now, he was told, but where had he been when Armenians were being killed in neighbouring Azerbaijan earlier in the year?

Many Armenians do not believe they are being told the whole truth about the disaster. They resented the discrepancy between the first local estimates of 80,000 dead and the first

adequate preparations for a disaster of this kind and for responding too slowly. Even six days after the earthquake, Nikolai Ryzhkov, the prime minister and chairman of the Politburo commission, was saying that insufficient local resources were being directed to the disaster area. The Armenian party leader, Suren Arutyunyan, and his colleagues will also be blamed for any inadequacies found in seismological surveys of the region and in building standards.

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Many Armenians do not believe they are being told the whole truth about the disaster. They resented the discrepancy between the first local estimates of 80,000 dead and the first



official figure of 40-45,000 and believe the number will in fact exceed 80,000.

They also blame the central authorities for the delay in mounting the relief operation and for its initial inefficiency. In this, they see not only the hand of Moscow, but indirectly also the hand of their enemies in Azerbaijan.

Moscow's refusal during the summer to countenance Armenia's demand for the transfer of the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan has led many Armenians to regard Moscow and Azerbaijan as being in collusion.

However, even-handed Gorbachev tried to make his criticism

of both sides in the dispute at the weekend, and however loudly he insists - as he did then - that it is morally reprehensible to link the territorial dispute and the earthquake, Armenians see the fate of Nagorno-Karabakh as indicative of his attitude, and many are unhappy.

Last Sunday, Armenian anger was expressed in a mass demonstration in Yerevan. It had been planned with three aims: to protest against the delays in the earthquake relief operation, to demand that Armenia should not accept any aid from Azerbaijan, and to protest against the rumoured permanent evacuation of Armenian children to Russia. The

previous evening, however, seven of the organizers were arrested under a new regulation - that it is morally reprehensible to link the territorial dispute and the earthquake, Armenians see the fate of Nagorno-Karabakh as indicative of his attitude, and many are unhappy.

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when the troops enforcing it were transferred to earthquake relief, was reimposed. The day after the demonstration, the Yerevan military command broadcast an announcement of the arrests and an appeal for "calm, observance of order and the regulations in force, for restraint and common sense". Reports from Yerevan now say the city is very tense.

Many Armenians say publicly that the disaster is so great that differences with Azerbaijan should be forgotten in the relief effort. But others tell western reporters that the earthquake and the response to it in Moscow and Azerbaijan show how important it is to continue the fight for Nagorno-Karabakh. Their animosity is fuelled by the "poison" greetings telegrams sent to some Armenians on the disaster and reports that Azeris held street celebrations when they heard the news and set fire to Armenian-occupied houses in Azerbaijan when troops were transferred to the relief operation.

Wild rumours have been spread: that Azeris are holding up relief supplies at the Armenian border, that non-Armenians will be drafted into the republic on the pretext of earthquake reconstruction and that the evacuation of people from the afflicted areas is only a cover for the permanent deportation of Armenians to Siberia.

In the extreme conditions following the earthquake, Nagorno-Karabakh still stands as a symbol of Armenian aspirations. The more distant it seems, the more obstacles are placed in the way, the more fiercely Armenian longing for it burns. Now, more than at any time since the massacres by the Turks of 1915, Armenians need a dream. The territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, populated by Armenians, misused by Azerbaijan and denied them by Moscow, gives them just that.

Commentary • RONALD BUTT

Anything but Labour

Whatever the Epping by-election result tells us about the current mood of Epping voters, its message will be nowhere near as informative about the basic condition of British politics as the opinion polls are. Answers to a pollster's questions is a more precise exercise. Other things being equal, most of us have a natural urge to answer questions about our opinions honestly, if only because our opinions are among our proudest personal possessions.

Asked by a pollster what we think about how we would vote if an election were held now, we tend to say what we feel at present, even though we may change our minds later.

Mr and Mrs Majority are telling the pollsters now that they do not think much of a number of the Government's policies and attitudes, including the Chancellor's conduct of the economy. They are pessimistic about its prospects of improvement next year, and sceptical about the reliance on high interest rates. They also dislike the privatization plans for water and electricity, are critical of education and housing policy, and remain hostile to the poll tax. Nor is Mrs Thatcher personally deeply loved. Yet it is also made clear that if a general election were held now she would be back in office.

There is, however, nothing new in this paradox. The same pattern has held throughout this parliament. Mrs Thatcher has repeatedly encountered hostility over particular policies, the discontent over social security and health spending, for instance.

Yet it has throughout been clear that she would nevertheless be re-elected.

Of course, a government often encounters hostility to its policies during a parliament and it is still returned to power at the end of it. But dislike of policies is for a time, at least, usually reflected in a fall in support measured by voting intentions. The public's present clear-sighted recognition that it would stay with the Government, even when disliking its policies, can mean only one thing: the majority's rejection of Labour is fundamental to the attitudes of the political nation.

Despite Mr Kinnock's revisionism, including Labour's relegation of old-style nationalism and its acceptance (however grudging) of a place for the market in the economy, and despite its promises of more generous public spending on health and social provision, the majority remains unconverted.

Labour's plight has a certain potential resemblance to the state of politics during the long Whig hegemony between 1714 and the 1760s, when the old Tories were consigned to the opposition benches because they were considered unacceptable. The political nation rejected them on account of the rigidity of attitudes associated with their original dislike of the 1714 settlement (even though the revolution of 1688 could never have been made without them). They were also (less than fairly) stigmatized for Jacobite sympathies. Above all, they were seen not to be emotionally comfortable with the new order of things, having never quite shed their hankering for an older, more mystical, view of the

Crown's authority. They were not trusted.

In the Labour Party today, for "Jacobitism" read "socialism". The leftists mesmerize themselves by saying that Labour has been defeated because of too little rather than too much socialism. But the Labour front bench knows that the reverse is true. So do the Marxist revisionists (the "Filibax Marxists") whose opinions are reflected in *Marxism Today* and elsewhere, which is why some of them are attracted to the idea of socialism by the back door of proportional representation, in alliance with other opposition groups. PR is seen as a potential servant by many would-be masters.

This understanding also underlies the attitude of the show business people, leftist journalists and academics and Democrat politicians who have signed the pledge for PR and an entrenched Bill of Rights under the title of Charter 88. Labour has at least had the good sense to reject both panaceas. Yet even some of Mr Kinnock's closest supporters now see pacts with other opposition parties as Labour's only hope.

So why should Labour be in a plight that so many of its sympathizers regard as desperate? The explanation is that the public does not trust the ability of the party's leaders in Parliament to control the activists whose social attitudes, from the ILEA to Liverpool and from Harrogate to the unions, are witness to a rooted hostility to what has been changed and achieved with public approval since 1979.

As Mr Ron Todd of the TGWU has made clear this week, the activists will fight the

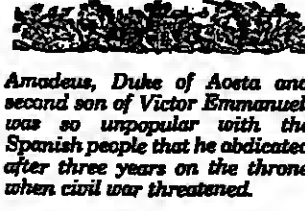
retreat from total unilateralism all the way, and they can also be expected to fight the leadership on the other reformist fronts, including the economy.

The nation will not elect a party which makes proposals of convenience from the head to which the heart is not committed. It wishes to consign the older style of socialism to history. Nor will votes be won by the rhetoric of the Charter 88 kind which pretends that this is so arbitrary a government as to be controllable only by the entrenched clauses of a new Bill of Rights. The people know very well that they can deal with Mrs Thatcher, if they choose, by turning her out, and their instinct will tell them that a Bill of Rights would only enshrine the interpretative power of the judges (itself arbitrary) over the elected parliament.

They do not, however, contemplate turning Mrs Thatcher out because they see a really malevolent kind of arbitrariness dogging Mr Kinnock's footsteps in the Labour Party. When they observe the left rebelling against his decision to abstain on the Prevention of Terrorism Bill - rather than vote against it, so as not to oppose the confiscation of terrorist funds - they find their understanding of Labour's instincts confirmed.

Mr Kinnock may not be brilliant at his job. He does not greatly impress the public. But it is his party, not the leader, which is condemned. Mrs Thatcher has cause to be grateful. Confronted by a genuinely social democratic Labour Party, a Tory government whose prospective policies for the rest of this parliament commanded so little enthusiasm might not sleep quite so easily.

DEC 15 ON THIS DAY 1870



Amadeo, Duke of Aosta and second son of Victor Emmanuel, was so unpopular with the Spanish people that he abdicated after three years on the throne when civil war threatened.

THE SPANISH DEPUTATION IN FLORENCE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT) FLORENCE, Dec 7

What a delightful task it would be for some modern Pappas to describe the festivities we are now witnessing here in honour of the Spanish Deputation sent to offer the Throne of Ferdinand and Isabella to Amadeo di Savoia. And, alas how far less delightful must be that of those unfortunate Hidelgos entrusted with the solemn mission, the chief actors in the play! Ever since their first arrival in Florence at midday on Saturday last, in full gala dress and glittering with stars, up to this evening (Wednesday), they can scarcely have had a moment's breathing time. Nor are they yet at the end of their arduous undertaking, for this evening is set apart for a municipal banquet and soiree, and sundry other entertainments - such as dinners, operatic gala performances, etc. - are yet to be inflicted upon them, which will doubtless give them plenty of opportunities for pronouncing high-flown speeches and toasts in true Castilian. It is hardly necessary for me to assure you that this city has not belied her traditional reputation for hospitality and elegant refinement. Nothing could have been more appropriate, more beautiful, or in better taste than the profuse decoration of flowers, illustrative of the name of *Fiorenza* ("City of

Flowers"), with which the Tuscan capital had chosen to adorn herself on this festive occasion. By a singular coincidence a heavy fall of snow which fell early on Sunday morning combined to lend an additional and unusual charm of quaint picturesqueness to the gigantic bouquets which lined the quays and principal streets, and the festoons of garlands stretching from one corner to another all along the Lung' Arno and the chief thoroughfares through which the Deputies of the Spanish Cortes had to drive on their road from their hotel to Palazzo Pitti. "You see," was the arch remark of a witty Italian high dignitary to a Northern diplomatist, "we are not able to get on without the North, we poor Latin nations, and are not even able to celebrate a fête in our own countries among ourselves without having to pay tribute to those powerful, victorious North, who pay us a visit in the shape of snow flakes." And to be sure, allusions to the Latin race of this kind are not only frequent in recurrence, but form a chief topic of conversation in all Italian circles just now. A great deal is said on the subject, and it is only to be hoped that the nation will preserve enough calm judgment and practical sense in their political aspirations not to allow mere philological theories and etymological considerations to interfere too largely in their management of public affairs to the detriment of their own vital interests. You may, however, rest assured that the only thing which reconciles the Italians to some very serious drawbacks, which they are beginning to deplore, in the exaltation of one of their Royal Princes to a foreign throne is the strong feeling of the solidarity existing between the different branches of the so-called Latin race, and the necessity (as it appears to them) of strengthening the bonds of unity between them in the presence of the recently-attained Teutonic supremacy in Europe.

EARTHQUAKE... MUSEUM... A FEUD BETW...



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EARTHQUAKES AND EGGS

The Armenian earthquake is a fearful tragedy and there is nothing funny about *Salmonella enteritidis*. Yet there was a surrealistic character which verged on the blackly humorous about the report in *The Times* yesterday that British egg producers are to send to Armenia a million of the eggs which are unsold as a result of the salmonella scare. It does, to say the least, put the egg matter in a kind of perspective.

On the one hand, we have a million eggs that can be sent to the victims of the Armenian earthquake, in the certain knowledge that they will do good which wholly outweighs any infinitesimal health risk attached.

On the other, we have the fact that these million eggs and very many more have been unsold as a result of the fears which the Department of Health has not exactly discouraged and for the scale of which its junior minister, Mrs Currie, is largely responsible.

Public, medical and government concern had been voiced about the risk of a new strain of salmonella related to eggs before Mrs Currie spoke. But it was Mrs Currie's breezy statement that "most of the egg production in this country is, sadly, now infected with salmonella" that precipitated the egg-consumers' strike and reduced egg consumption by about 60 per cent, threatening producers with ruin and their workers with the redundancy which some Tory MPs would like Mrs Currie to share.

That statement infuriated the Minister of Agriculture, Mr John MacGregor, whose producer-orientated department reflects the anxieties of the threatened industry. He has virtually contradicted Mrs Currie, declaring that "it is not the case that most eggs are infected."

Yet whatever he thinks of her precise phraseology, Mrs Currie was not disowned or rebuked by her Secretary of State, Mr Kenneth Clarke, and is apparently supported by her department, which represents the health of egg consumers and the medical profession which is supposed to guard it.

Moreover, fresh eggs have been taken off some hospital menus. The majority of egg-

eaters seem to have decided that, even though the statistical risk to any individual of being infected by salmonella is small, the individuals are unlucky enough to get it might just be themselves.

This confusion is chiefly the responsibility of the Government departments involved. The new voluntary code of practice for the keeping and feeding of hen-laying eggs was plainly an inadequate public reassurance. Now, after prolonged negotiations between the Departments of Agriculture and Health, in the atmosphere of two rival powers on the brink of conflict, an advertising campaign has been announced.

On balance, it seems to represent more of a victory for Health (and the doctors) than for Agriculture (and the producers.) Though reminded of the nutritious advantages of eggs and the very small risk of infection, we are nevertheless told (as the Chief Medical Officer has already advised) not to eat raw eggs, which seems to apply whatever our state of health.

But if we think we are healthy we can eat them cooked as usual. It is not entirely clear whether this is chiefly because even light cooking is some protection or because the infection is no great risk to the fit. It is not new, nor is it exactly the clearest advice to people confused by the statistics and about the facts.

On one level, the whole affair can be studied with academic interest by the students of the relationship of interest groups with rival Whitehall departments, each of which has its "clients" to whose cause it is more dedicated than to abstract truth.

Or the affair might be seen as a series of damage limitation exercises by politicians and officials as ignorant as everyone else about where precisely the balance of truth lies. On the substance of the matter, each citizen must still make up his own mind. The Government's aim for the future should be to equip itself with rather more scientific facts to share with the public. Its ministers could make earlier use of the machinery which exists for co-ordinating Government pronouncements on health.

MUSEUM MINIMA

There will, inevitably, be occasions when a picture, a book or some artefact from the great national collections is invisible to public eyes: when it is undergoing the work of conservation or cataloguing, or is in transit between one gallery or museum and another. In a well-kept collection their number should be at a minimum; their absence should be regretted and its duration kept as short as possible. For though the national collections, specifically the British and Victoria and Albert museums, have essential obligations to the community of scholars and experts who view in private, it is difficult to conceive that they have any obligation less pressing than public availability and an inescapable commitment to a policy of open shelves and open galleries.

The charge that they have failed to meet that obligation gives yesterday's report from the Public Accounts Committee its force, and allows its chairman, Mr Robert Sheldon, to allege that there has been a breakdown in the proper stewardship of national assets. It is a forceful critique, which requires a convincing response from Mr Richard Luce and his colleagues in the Government. Capitalizing on the National Audit Office's report of March this year, the PAC asks some clear questions which the curators of the national collections have not yet answered: why pursue an active acquisitions policy when the existing store of treasures is so badly conserved? Backlogs in conservation; poor storage conditions; unsystematic inventories: these are serious charges, that speak ill of the nation's sense of its past and its pride in preserving the qualitative expression of its artists and artisans.

What is to be done? Not for the first time, both the auditors and their parliamentary spokesmen prove to be excellent critics, but rather unimaginative analysts of public policy. Their first suggestion is unexceptionable. No

curator can operate successfully on an annual basis; the keepers of the national collections need the financial freedom to undertake longer-run programmes of cataloguing and conservation. The notion of apportioning a priority to items in the collections and trading off new acquisitions against items in stock is more problematic.

What ought to be the acquisitions policy of the V & A or the British Museum? The answer is a hard decision: if for whatever reason the museums cannot display their treasures, then surely they ought to divest themselves of pieces to collections (abroad?) which can make more fruitful use of them.

Before then, however, the Government has to speak more resolutely than it has to date about the future of investment in these collections. They are of course highly significant items in the tourism budget as well as appurtenances of a civilized, and historically conscious country. Buildings are one item, and staffing is another. Mr Luce possibly has to recognize that the time has come when the Government's proper concern for aggregate numbers of employees in the public service is actually doing damage to national institutions and that the time has come to stop turning the screw.

If the Government were to decide that the United Kingdom was too well endowed with national collections of arts and artefacts and that public policy should no longer concern itself with, say, the V & A, that would at least represent a clear-cut decision. But as long as these collections remain - and they should - a public charge, gathered together and exhibited for the edification and joy of the British public and foreign visitors, then the Government should accept that certain minimum costs have to be borne. The PAC gives useful guidance on what those minima are.

A FEUD BETWEEN BROTHERS

The general strike which paralysed Spain yesterday was a political trial of strength similar to the one which the Spanish Prime Minister, Señor Felipe González, successfully mounted two years ago over Spanish membership of Nato. This time, he has not emerged unscathed. An estimated 7.8 million people, half the workforce, responded to what had become a popular vote of confidence in Señor González' Socialist Workers' Party.

The Government had, on the face of it, all the good arguments. The direct focus of the strike was its plan to reduce youth unemployment - the highest in Europe, in a country whose overall unemployment is falling but where 19 per cent of the workforce is still jobless - by subsidizing employers to take on young people at the minimum wage on short-term contracts. Everybody agrees that special measures are needed to find young people jobs. Señor Nicolas Redondo, the fiery leader of the socialist union, the UGT, appeared to have picked weak ground on which to bring his simmering quarrel with his old friend Señor González to a head.

Accusing the Government of seeking to pack Spain's factories with cheap non-union labour, the UGT forged an unprecedented alliance with the Communist trade union, the CCOO, to call the general strike. Spain's first since 1934. In the past few weeks, the grounds of the confrontation have broadened: the unions have mobilized resentments over declining purchasing power, and played on the uncertainties created by modernization after decades of paternalistic dictatorship.

The parallel is not with Britain in the late 1970s. Despite yesterday's huge turnout, Spanish unions are not over-mighty subjects with well-entrenched powers. They are young

- Franco's Spain banned unions along with the right to strike - and underfunded. The essence of the political dispute is that, as in France, the unions feel betrayed by a socialist Government dedicated to market policies.

The UGT and the Socialist Workers' Party have, as the party's name implies, been blood brothers. Señor González owes his leadership of the party to Señor Redondo. The UGT owes many of its members' jobs to systematic Government favouritism which has made whole sectors of the civil and public services UGT preserves. The showdown has all the characteristics of a blood feud.

In economic terms, Señor González could have chosen to ignore a 24-hour strike. Instead, and characteristically, he took up the political challenge. He staked his prestige on a low turnout, inviting Spaniards to choose between being Europeans and Latin Americans. No European country, he said, had had a general strike in 20 years; Argentina had suffered 13 in the last five. To strike would be to show political immaturity. The UGT fought its corner with equal ferocity, expelling union leaders who opposed the strike call.

In retrospect, Señor González would seem on this occasion to have chosen an unsuitable style for the right message. The right to strike is also, after all, a symbol to Spaniards of the country's modernization. The turnout is as much a verdict on the Prime Minister's perceived arrogance as it is on the ostensible issues of wages and job security. The strike is thus a salutary reminder to Señor González that politicians are fallible. But the relationship between the Government and the UGT has been too cosy for Spain's good, and it will be a setback for the country if he loses the war as well as this round in the battle.

Egg fears placed in perspective

From Mr Christopher Jackson, MEP for East Kent (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, "Hens face slaughter as egg sales drop" (*Times* headline, December 10). When a Government minister pronounces that "most British egg production was infected with salmonella", it occasions considerable alarm. The public and the industry concerned have a right to expect either that such a statement is backed by facts, or that it will be withdrawn with equivalent publicity.

Having been to some lengths to ascertain the facts, I have found no evidence from official or unofficial sources to back up the ministerial statement quoted.

In 1988 there have been on average 1,000 known cases a month of salmonella food poisoning. Of these, about 100 cases could be linked to eggs. Tests on flocks suspected of association with cases revealed an infection rate of 1 to 2 per cent. Random tests on other flocks revealed not a single egg - i.e., zero infection. A major egg producer has recently tested 1,500 eggs at random, again with a zero infection result.

In Britain we produce some 30 million eggs a day. Perhaps 15 million a day are eaten in a lightly cooked or uncooked form - 450 million a month. Comparison with the 1,000 cases a month suggests that one egg in every 450,000 may give rise to a case of salmonella poisoning. To put this graphically, if you, Sir, were to eat an egg a day for the next 1,000 years you might get a tummy upset on one occasion.

Life is not and never will be risk-free. We are surrounded by germs. The annual risk of serious injury in a road accident is higher than the risk of one tummy upset through a raw egg for someone who eats one a day for a year.

Today an important industry is suffering a catastrophe, with sales down by up to 60 per cent (report, December 12), largely because of an exaggerated statement. It is the Government's responsibility to ensure that the industry is not misled. Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER JACKSON, 8 Wellmead Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent, December 14.

From Mr James Behrens Sir, It's as clear as eggs are eggs that I shall have to find some other expression to use when I'm sure about something. Yours faithfully, JAMES BEHRENS, 13 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2, December 13.

Clapham rail crash

From Mr Rainer Burchett Sir, One factor that must not be overlooked in the enquiries into the Clapham rail disaster is the lack of voice communication in the driver's cab.

The driver of the first train apparently noticed the faulty signal and stopped his train in order to find a telephone to report the fault. Clearly a telephone or radio link would have enabled him to communicate more quickly and could well have avoided the disaster altogether.

Even if signalling can be improved to be completely fail-safe, other emergencies can arise, such as fallen trees or other obstructions on the line, which will be better dealt with by direct communication. Yours faithfully, R. BURCHETT, 29 Aldenham Avenue, Radlett, Hertfordshire, December 13.

The training circle

From the Director-General of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce

Sir, You rightly call on chambers of commerce (leading article, December 6) to react quickly to the opportunities presented by the Government's White Paper on training. While chambers may frequently act as a catalyst for the setting up of Training and Enterprise Councils, their involvement must be of a wider nature.

The councils, composed mainly of senior local businessmen, represent an admirable advance towards training that is sensitive to local needs. But business involvement must not stop with the council itself.

If the new bodies are not to become local quangos, distant from and insensitive to the needs of business generally, the entire business community, focused on its chamber of commerce, must have an input into the council's decisions. To succeed, the councils will need to tap into existing networks.

Yours faithfully, R. G. TAYLOR, Director-General, The Association of British Chambers of Commerce, 212 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2, December 14.

Infant deaths

From the Chief Executive of the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths

Sir, The report (details, December 14) of the all-party committee of MPs on perinatal, neonatal, and infant mortality focused our attention once again on the stark truth that each year babies die suddenly and unexpectedly, and that some such deaths are clearly preventable.

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths is the major funder of research into cot deaths and we

Tighter grip on North Sea fishery

From Mr James Provan, MEP for North East Scotland (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, Today's leading article ("The men in the boats", December 13) is a timely reminder of the continued importance of the fishing industry to the north-east of Scotland and to the Scottish economy as a whole.

The cuts in the cod and haddock quotas are a savage blow to an industry already suffering from the freeze in boat-building grants and facing a substantial bill to bring facilities up to the standards which will be required for it to compete successfully in the single Community market. It would have been far worse if ministers had taken the easy way out of increasing quotas through the creation of "paper" fish.

Our ministers' achievements should be recognised for what they were able to obtain in Brussels - not just obtaining the lion's share of the haddock quotas, but also the right to follow the mackerel shoals into the North Sea.

While the TAC (total allowable catches) system needs to be strengthened, possibly by setting

quotas over a range of white fish species and over a number of years, the first requirement is to reduce the catching power of the fleet.

In 1987 the UK, along with other member States, agreed to a 3 per cent reduction in tonnage by 1991. The UK fleet is now some 15 per cent over target. The European Community has a scheme for decommissioning vessels. Significantly, the country which has applied the scheme most enthusiastically, Denmark, has registered the largest fall in vessel tonnage.

Ireland and the UK, which have not applied the scheme, have seen the greatest increase in tonnage. In conjunction with a tightening up of the vessel licensing arrangements to prevent a build-up of new capacity the UK should now apply the Community decommissioning scheme, as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely, JAMES PROVAN, European Parliament, 97-113 rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels, Belgium, December 13.

Transport troubles

From Miss Jillian E. Beardwood Sir, In summing up (leading article, December 10) your excellent series of articles on transport in London you rightly emphasise the need for co-ordinated planning and action. I think that perhaps the general reader will not have realised from those articles how far professional (as opposed to political) thinking has moved in this direction in the last few years. The area assessment studies, for example, are being allowed to take some note of public transport.

I personally also regret that no space has yet been found to inform that reader of the sterling work done jointly by the statisticians of the Department of Transport and the boroughs to keep available for all concerned as much as possible of the basic transport data held at the time of its abolition by the Greater London Council.

It is, however, the future which matters and it so happens that there is a key date in that future which would influence the time-table of any administrative changes proposed. This date is 1991, when the fourth in the series of decennial London Transport surveys is due.

The previous three such surveys were the source of many of the facts presented by your recent correspondents and are still used extensively by those concerned with transport in London. A 1991 survey, carried out and subsequently managed and made generally accessible under a new London Transport Executive which both used and added to the expertise built up under the old bodies would be a key weapon in the war against capital chaos.

Yours faithfully, JILLIAN E. BEARDWOOD, 100 Heath Row, Bishops Cleeve, Hertfordshire, December 11.

From Mr S. P. C. Plowden Sir, In his interesting Spectrum article (December 5) Paul Valley quotes the principle adopted in my recent study for the London Centre for Transport Planning that a car journey should be restrained where the costs to other road users, in time and money, exceed the benefits to the individual car user.

This principle was used to assess what proportion of the journeys now made to central London every morning by car should transfer to public transport. It was shown that the great majority should transfer. The study then compared the various means by which the transfers

might be brought about, but, contrary to the impression given by the Spectrum article, it did not conclude that road pricing would be the best.

Road pricing is hard to justify while company car tax concessions and similar fiscal distortions remain. Even if they were all removed, the report suggested that a method of restraint combining permits and pricing might be preferable to schemes based on road pricing alone. Only certain kinds of people would have the right to use a car in the centre, but they would also have to pay.

This method can be thought of as an extension of the familiar and accepted residents' parking schemes. The report argues that it would probably be fairer and more effective than pure road pricing. One advantage is that it should produce a greater reduction in traffic than either road pricing or the other restraint methods that have been canvassed, and should therefore do most to improve bus services, conditions for pedestrians and cyclists and the environment. Yours faithfully, STEPHEN PLOWDEN, 69 Albert Street, NW1, December 5.

Blood alcohol test

From Dr Robin Moffat Sir, Forensic medical practitioners, and police surgeons in particular, will welcome the law lords' timely ruling (Law Report, December 9) that evidence obtained from the back-calculation of blood alcohol was not barred by statute, and was admissible when there was clear evidence that a driver was over the limit.

The expressed concern of the British Medical Association is understandable because the concentration of alcohol in the blood does not descend evenly, but varies, depending upon an individual's physiology, height, and weight. However, competent forensic scientists always allow for these factors, and the evidential figure produced in court is always inclined in favour of the defendant.

Many intoxicated motorists (especially re-offenders), when arrested, try every trick in the book to delay the sampling of their blood or urine. The House of Lords' decision will assist law-enforcement and will save innocent lives by removing some of the most dangerous drivers from the public highway.

I am, Sir, yours truly, ROBIN MOFFAT (Senior forensic medical examiner, Metropolitan Police), 10 Harpole Street, W1, December 12.

Status of Eritrea

From Ms Mary Dines

Sir, I am afraid that the Ethiopian Ambassador's letter about the status of Eritrea (December 1) was very economical with the truth. Eritrea was never part of Ethiopia. Before modern times, parts of the country were occupied by foreign powers, especially the Ottoman Empire. Its only connection with Abyssinia at that time was that some Eritrean chiefs paid tribute to the Tigrayan kings. At no time was there any administration or control of territory by the Abyssinians.

Eritrea was not therefore stolen from Abyssinia by the Italians. It was ceded to Italy as part of the Treaty of Berlin, under which the European powers carved up Africa into European colonies.

Abyssinia was the only African country to take part in what became known as the "scramble for Africa". With the help of European arms, Melekil was able to embark on a conquest of the states to the south of Shoa, then part of a loose-knit Oromo confederation. These people were subjugated with great cruelty. Me-

lekil acknowledged the Italian occupation of Eritrea by sending a consul to Asmara.

When Ethiopia annexed Eritrea in 1962 - in defiance of the United Nations - they did so from self-interest. Eritrea has two good ports, whilst Ethiopia is landlocked, and possessed important natural resources, including oil, which were not known to be available in Ethiopia at the time. In 1962, of course, Ethiopia was a capitalist state - a fact the Ambassador ignores.

Finally, the Ambassador must have been misinformed about the use of children in his country's army. No doubt Andrew Buckoke (report, November 22) saw many of them when he was in Eritrea recently. I have also seen hundreds of Ethiopian prisoners of war who were under military age during visits to Eritrea in the last 10 years. Some had only been 12 or 13 when recruited. Many other journalists and other visitors to Eritrea have also reported on the child conscripts.

Yours faithfully, MARY DINES, 43 Brownlow Road, N11.

Racism revived by 'glasnost'

From Mrs Zaruhi Nalbandyan

Sir, I was married in 1983 and came to this country in 1985 and the intervening two years being taken up by documentation in getting out of Russia. I am Armenian and spent all my life, apart from the last three years, in Baku, Azerbaijan. I taught Russian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani in a multicultural school.

From childhood we were taught the concept of internationalism, and so living in that part of the USSR we were unaware of the differences between nations and races. Earlier, although subject to Marxism, it was made clear to us that we were different races, albeit working harmoniously together.

Now, however, under the new regime of perestroika and glasnost, with relaxed control from the Kremlin, the old racial and religious differences are reasserting themselves. The inference here is obvious - that Marx and Engels, conceiving as they did that man is merely an economic animal, overlooked his racial and religious motivations.

The above is perhaps the greatest weakness in the communist system. Thus, given a free or relaxed system, both racial and religious convictions are bound to assert themselves. It is commonly thought that racism or religious consciousness is the product of dictatorial or oppressive regimes, e.g. national socialist Germany or apartheid South Africa, yet here we have the reverse effect - relaxation has in fact reawakened both. Yours faithfully, ZARUHI NALBANDYAN, 63 Laburnum Road, Fareham, Hampshire, December 8.

A plaque for Pound?

From Dr Alastair Niven and others

Sir, It has come to our attention that the London Advisory Committee of English Heritage has declined to make decision on a proposal to put up a blue plaque to Ezra Pound on the house where he lived in Kensington Church Walk from 1909 to 1914.

Pound enlarged the scope of the English language. As Donald Davie has written, Dryden and Keats and, yes, Shakespeare are the appropriate fellows for this poet of our time who magnanimously lent his energies to the language that we all share, rather than bending that language to his own egotistical purposes.

Also, by his generosity of spirit, during the period that he lived in London, Pound had an enormous and beneficial influence on the development of the arts in England. We should be able to dissociate his later political excesses from what is of permanent value in his work.

We, the undersigned, therefore ask English Heritage to reconsider this proposal with the urgency and sympathy which it merits. Yours faithfully,

- ALASTAIR NIVEN (Director of Librarians, Arts Council of Great Britain), MICHAEL ALEXANDER, GEORGE BARKER, WILLIAM BEDFORD, ANNE BERSFORD, ALAN BROWN, WILLIAM COORSOON, PETER DALE, VALERIE ELIOT, D. J. ENRIGHT, GAVIN EWART, ROY FULLER, DAVID GASCOYNE, MICHAEL HAMBURGER, IAN HAMILTON, SEAMUS HEANEY, JOHN HEATH-STUBBS, A. L. HENDRIKS, PETER JAY, ROLAND JOHN, P. J. KAVANAGH, LOTTIE KRAMER, PETER LEVI, JOHN LOVEDAY, JEAN McVEAN, DEREK MAHON, W. MOELWYN MERCHANT, W. S. MILNE, PETER PORTER, F. T. PRINCE, CRAIG RAINE, KATHLEEN RAINE, DACHINE RAINER, JEREMY REED, PETER RUSSELL, MICHAEL SCARFORD, TOM SCOTT, ROY SILKIN, CLIFFORD SIDDONS, C. H. SISSON, STEPHEN SPENDER, CHARLES TOMLINSON, 5 Cranbourne Court, Albert Bridge Road, SW11, December 12.

Insurance conundrum

From Mr Andrew Patrick

Sir, There was wide publicity last week (Salerom, December 10) for the record price paid for a picture by Peplow at Christie's in Glasgow. The hammer price was £460,000; the invoice to the purchaser is £512,900.

The vendor will receive from the auctioneers about £410,000. However, he will then receive a bill for capital gains tax of some £200,000. My conundrum is, how should the owners of such pictures decide on the value for insurance? Yours, ANDREW PATRICK, 148 New Bond Street, W1, December 12.

Ys and wherefore

From Dr N. M. Woods

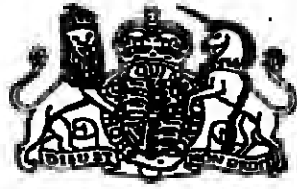
Sir, Miss M. V. Perrin (December 5) enquires about an internationally-known alphabet that could be printed in the telephone code book. May I suggest the phonetic alphabet commonly in use by radio amateurs: "A" for alpha, "B" for bravo, and so on. This alphabet is extremely useful when communications are subject to interference.

I prefer the Morse code, but that is another matter! Yours faithfully, NIALL M. WOODS, University of Liverpool, Department of Human Anatomy and Cell Biology, PO Box 147, Liverpool, Merseyside, December 5.

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pledge to EC fraud

WORKS ROUND



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 14: Mr A.D. Brighty was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Havana.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. Beaton-Hird and Miss S. Starkey The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Dr and Mrs John Beaton-Hird, of Oldwell, Ashton-under-Lilly, near Wrexham, Wrexhamshire, and Suzanne, eldest daughter of Sir John and Lady Starkey, Norwood Park, Southwell, Nottinghamshire.

Marriages

Mr C. Crombie and Mrs V. Pauli The marriage took place quietly on December 10, at St Andrew's Church, Headington, Oxford, between Mr Charles Crombie and Vivianne Pauli.

OBITUARIES

MAJ-GEN R. E. URQUHART

Gallant commander in forlorn Arnhem battle



Major-General R. E. Urquhart CB, DSO and Bar, who died on December 13, aged 87, commanded the First Airborne Division in the nine-day battle of Arnhem, an action which stands in a class by itself for gallantry and audacity of conception.

Urquhart was a born leader with the qualities to make an irresistible appeal to adventurous youth. He was a big, strong and fit. His 'straightforward manner concealed the traditional imagination and fire of the Highlander.

Birthdays today

Mr David Abell, chairman and chief executive, Suter, 46; Lord Acton, 81; Miss Valerie Aggett, principal, Holborn Law Tutors, 38; Sir Denis Barnes, civil servant, 74; Mr Michael Bogdanov, theatre director, 50; Mr Clive Britton, racehorse trainer, 55; Lord Croham, 71; Lord Dunpark, 73; Air Marshal Sir John Fitzpatrick, 59; Miss Ida Haendel, violinist, 64; Mr Gunnar Hagglöf, Swedish diplomat, 84; Sir Henry Harcourt, 81; civil servant, 83; Mr Joe Jordan, footballer, 37; General Sir Frank Kitson, 62; Deaconess Dr Una Kroll, writer and broadcaster, 63; Mr David McMurray, headmaster, Oldmole School, 51; Mr Oscar Niemeyer, architect, 81; Miss Edna O'Brien, writer, 52; Professor M.H.F. Wilkins, biophysicist, 72.

Luncheons

Rotary Club of London Lord Young of Grahamam, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon given by the Rotary Club of London at the Café Royal yesterday.

Walpole's inkstand draws a record £770,000 bid

In a genial battle between dealers, a George II inkstand, by the Huguenot jeweller Paul de Lamerie, tripled its estimate at £770,000 at Christie's London yesterday.

The Banqueting House to close

The Banqueting House in Whitehall, designed by Inigo Jones as part of the old Palace of Whitehall, will be closed from January 1 to March 31 for redecoration.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will open the Norman and Sadie Lee Research Centre at the National Institute of Medical Research, Mill Hill, at 10.30, and will attend a carol concert in aid of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund in Westminster Abbey at 6.40.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Nero, 5th Roman emperor AD 54-68, Antium (Anzio), AD 37; George Romney, portrait painter, Dalton-on-Trent, Derbyshire, 1734; Charles Cowden Clarke, critic, Eofield, Middlesex, 1787; Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, engineer, builder of the tower bearing his name, Dijon, 1832; Niels Finzen, physician, Nobel laureate 1903, Torschau, Puroe Islands, 1860; Josef Hoffmann, architect, Pirnitz, Czechoslovakia, 1870; Maxwell Anderson, dramatist, Atlanta, Pennsylvania, 1888.

Memorial service

Sir Frank Francis A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Frank Francis was held yesterday at St George's Bloomsbury. Father Michael Day officiated, assisted by Canon Stanley Young.

Dinners

Canning House Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, President of the Hispanic and Lusitanian Council, was host last night at a dinner held at Canning House in honour of Ambassadors and Heads of Mission of Latin America, Spain and Portugal.

Latest wills

Sir Alec Arnold Constantine Isingonis, of Edgmonton, Birmingham, car designer, left estate valued at £99,563 net.

Judge retires

Mr Justice Laty will retire from the High Court bench, Family Division, on January 10.

HERMÈS FOR HER advertisement featuring a handbag and the brand name.

Inner Temple

Mr D. E. H. Robson, QC, Mr J. P. Wadsworth, QC, Mr S. J. Sher, QC, Mr E. Tabachnik, QC, Miss Anita Ryan, QC, and Mr M. G. Tugendhat, QC, have been elected to the bench of the Inner Temple.

Mr Enoch Powell

The Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party and the Party were represented by Mr Enoch Powell, who was accompanied by Mrs Powell at the Royal Mass for Sir John Biggs-Davison, MP, held on Tuesday in Westminster Cathedral.

Lincoln's Inn

Judge Tjamen Koopmans, of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, is to be an honorary bencher of Lincoln's Inn.

Harrow School

The Winter Term at Harrow ends today. Lord and Lady Callaghan of Cardiff and Lady Soames attended Churchill Songs on December 2. The Cock House, which was won by Second World War, first in the Polish army and then in Britain's Special Operations Executive, and this in spite of a physical disability which would have barred many a lesser spirit from such adventurous activities.

MR BRYNMOR JOHN, MP

Labour opponent of unilateral nuclear disarmament



Mr Brynmor John, Labour MP for Pontypridd since 1970, and a former Labour junior minister, died after a heart attack in St Thomas's Hospital, London, on December 13. He was 54.

ANDREW KENNEDY

Undercover operations in wartime Eastern Europe

Andrew Kennedy, who died in Munich on December 1, aged 76, was a Pole who gave distinguished service in the Second World War, first in the Polish army and then in Britain's Special Operations Executive, and this in spite of a physical disability which would have barred many a lesser spirit from such adventurous activities.

Appointments

Mr A. E. S. Franks has succeeded a Lord Bancroft as chairman of the management board of the Royal Hospital and Home, Putney.

Gray's Inn

Professor Beano Schmidt, President of Yale University, has been elected an honorary master of the bench of Gray's Inn.

Science Report

Warming to seven brown dwarfs

The search for planets in orbit around stars other than the Sun and the quest for the 'dark matter' that many believe exists, has taken another twist this week with the discovery of a dim star in orbit around a faint white dwarf star in the constellation of Bootes, a few degrees south of the red star Arcturus.

Warming to seven brown dwarfs

The researchers last year discovered an infra-red source associated with G29-38, a white dwarf star in the constellation Pegasus. Calculations showed that the extra infra-red radiation from G29-38 could be coming from a very cool brown dwarf, but the suspect has never been detected as a discrete image, separate from its companion. In contrast, GD185B has been imaged as a distinct body.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

BIRTHS

CANTANCE - On December 9th 1988, in Phoenix, Arizona, to Robert and...

DEATHS
MANKER - On December 11th 1988, in hospital, Patrick Douglas, aged 72...

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MANKER - On December 11th 1988, in hospital, Patrick Douglas, aged 72...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A GREAT CHALLENGE
PROFIT FROM HUMAN VALUES
This headline has appeared here in THE TIMES for last 22 days...

FARHAD HORMOZI
ENTRUSTED to the care of Mrs. J. Hormozi...

SERVICES
A VERY SPECIAL LADY SEEKS A VERY SPECIAL MAN
You are the type of single or divorced man...

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE
DAILYWIFE-CHAMPIONS - to be loved memory of Wilton Dailywifes...

ANNOUNCEMENTS
RAGU REUNIONS
Ragu Reunions is a free service operating until January 5th 1989...

ANNOUNCEMENTS
HELENA INTERNATIONAL
The Professional Introduction Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS
SKELETONS
Family documentaries, Genealogy with added features...

ANNOUNCEMENTS
WANTED
ALL EUROPEAN articles, old furniture...

ANNOUNCEMENTS
WHEN HE SEES A CLOCK HE HIDES
There are books to which the human mind can never return...

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CHRISTMAS at Stoneham Park, a traditional Christmas in the heart of the Cotswolds...

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THE ARTS

David Robinson can find very little festive cheer in the Christmas film releases

No star to follow

CINEMA

Just Ask For Diamond (U) Cannons Haymarket, Oxford Street, Chelsea

Like Father, Like Son (PG) Odeon Marble Arch, Cannon Pantom Street

Sunset (15) Cannon Pantom Street

Prisoner of Rio (15) Metro



Best of a bad bunch: Dursley McLinden as the eponymous sleuth Tim Diamond in Just Ask For Diamond. Welsh comedy Coming Up Roses. More kids' stuff in Like Father, Like Son which - released in the United States more than a year ago - was one of the first and least imaginative of the father-son switch films. Dudley Moore is a pompous and pedantic English surgeon who changes bodies with his schoolboy son (Kirk Cameron) after swallowing a magic potion.

The slapstick is plodding, the movie-buff allusions will elude the juvenile audience, but the good humour is infectious, and London locations like St Pancras, Selfridge's toy department and Regent Street with last year's Christmas lights are colourfully deployed. The American-born director Stephen Bayly made the attractive

fact Mix was out of pictures at the time, while Earp had died in 1928 at 80 years old. Having promised fun with early Hollywood and the confrontation of the real and mythical West, Edwards's script declines into a kinky murder mystery involving a pathologically sadistic studio boss (Malcolm McDowell) who was once the world's favourite knock-about comic. The Mix and Earp teaming becomes a stock buddies turn. It is a common little picture, extravagantly packaged with set-pieces like the "re-creation" of the first Academy Awards ceremony.

As the fun-loving train robber himself is credited as co-writer, it is no surprise that, as played by Paul Freeman in Prisoner of Rio, Ronald Biggs emerges as brave, suave, handsome, devoted to his infant son and railing against the injustice that coddles kindly train robbers to 30 years while rapists and murderers... et cetera. Given this viewpoint, it would have seemed sensible to restrict the film to the exile's own experience (as Buster tells the story of a bungled attempt by Scotland Yard to circumvent Brazilian extradition rules by abducting Biggs. The real protagonist is the obsessive, violent and unprincipled Scottish policeman deputised to the job - played by a specialist in nasty fanatics, Steven Berkoff. Short on dramatic interest and scrappily incidental, the film reaches desperately for local colour, climaxing in a musical fantasia of the Rio carnival - filmed showily by Lech Majewski.

JAZZ Posers for you Micro Groove 100 Club George Melly Ronnie Scott's Club

Is radio fair to jazz? The question was posed on Monday at the launch of a campaign by the Association of British Jazz Musicians. Experience shows it will be difficult to win over the broadcasters, but the concert at least was a showcase for the young musicians who will be jostling for air-space in years to come. Midway through the evening came Micro Groove, a new signing to Island Records and an example of the school of pastiche and parody. The band is another sub-branch of Loose Tubes, led by their trombonist-cum-master of ceremonies, Ashley Slater. The target of this latest venture is the black showband tradition of the early 1960s. Slater and his colleagues - including trumpeter John Ecott and saxophonist Steve Buckley - attempt to recreate the atmosphere of a James Brown or Geno Washington revue, with the odd Tamla Motown riff thrown in for good measure. With the rhythm section underpinned by Jazz Warriors drummer Cheryl Alleyne, Slater took charge of the vocals, providing a bizarre running commentary interspersed with exhortations to get up and dance. His impersonation of Lou Rawls on "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine" simply defied description. It was the kind of wild experiment which would go down well on the college circuit. Whether it falls into the category of jazz is another matter. Scophus might make the same point about George Melly, now in the midst of his annual residency in Soho. Melly is, of course, no more "authentic" than Slater and his colleagues. After 15 years, his routine with the Feetwarmers is inevitably as predictable as any showbusiness act. Somehow, however, his wily charm rises above it all, helped by John Chilton's graceful trumpet accompaniment. This year's performance was scarcely different from last year's, though the up-dated jokes include eggs and Edwin Currie. Towards the end of his first set there was "Life With You", a bitter-sweet ballad based on lyrics by Melly's admirer, Jean Ross. "Backwater Blues" was there too, sung with feeling and not a hint of satire. Clive Davis

Back from the brink and balancing books

Five years ago it was all over bar the shouting for Iggy Pop. "Systems of existence are built up on little habits, and I realized that my pile of little habits was simply not tenable," he says with a gust of manic laughter, while his mouth is puncturing into a deeply serious expression. "I knew I was on my way to death." It is hard to believe that he is 41 years old. The markings etched into his face suggest several lifetimes rolled into one. However, the show he has just completed at Exeter University was the work of a sinewy, superfit man, with energy and stamina to shame performers half his age. James Jewel Osterberg, Jr., was born and raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He took the stage name Iggy from his first band, the Iguanas, while still at high school. He came to wider attention in the late Sixties as the outrageous singer of the prototype punk band, the Stooges. The critic Lester Bangs described their music as "brutal, mindless, primitive, vicious, base, savage, primal, hate-filled, grungy, terrifying and above all REAL". Pop bridles at this. "People used to hate our band, but you could only say that it was mindless and so on if you didn't have to go through the process of thinking the whole thing up. I was on the debate team in high school. I've speech skills. I have writing skills

Iggy Pop tells David Sinclair why he has eschewed his rock 'n' roll craziness for sobriety and married life

and I know damn well how to present my point. I'm a pro and I always was. "When Lenny Kaye reviewed my first album in Rolling Stone, when the term punk, relating to music, first appeared in print, he conjectured that the singer must only have a 70-word vocabulary... So maybe Lester saw something that I don't. Maybe I'm bringing out a part of me that I don't want to admit I'm bringing out. But I'm using a skill to do it." Although the Stooges' final album, Raw Power, was released in 1973, there is a current wave of interest in the band. "The first two albums [The Stooges and Fun House] came out on CD, and this year I got my first Stooges royalty cheque. My share was \$2,300, but the point is it stopped me from finally in the back, 21 years after our first gig in 1967." After the breakup of the Stooges, Pop embarked on an erratic solo career which brought forth gems like 1977's Last Day of Life but led to diminishing returns. "By early 1983, when I was touring Zombiethouse, I became aware that I was a wreck. I looked 50 years old. I was getting injured on stage. The balance of upper and downers I was taking was leaving me

about two creative minutes a day and I was not writing well any more. It was a mess. I knew I had to quit." Pop's stage behaviour had become increasingly irresponsible, to the point where accidents involving members of the audience were happening with alarming regularity. It was only a year ago that Pop settled (out of court) the last of the law suits to be brought against him on account of incidents during 1981-1983. "It was a source of shame, tension and a big problem for me. It was part of the reason I stopped for a few years. Also, I wanted to become capable of dealing with my work in a condition of sobriety." As in all the best stories, it was the love of a good woman that enabled Pop to achieve a new equilibrium and chart a sustainable course for the future. He met Sachi in Tokyo, on that 1983 tour, and according to Pop she gave him the strength to turn things around. "She taught me how not to be selfish. I started by trying to live an eight hour day without being on anything. Eventually I learnt to start calling on my friends and facing up to my business affairs and my

life began to click." Pop and Sachi, who is now 27, married in 1985. At the end of 1986 Pop scored his first hit single with "Real Wild Child". He has returned to the fray this year with the much more powerful Instinct album and a show to match. He is now singing with more control than at any previous stage of his career. At Exeter the set list included many Stooges anthems - "1969", "No Fun", "I Wanna Be Your Dog", "TV Eye" and others - performed with a fresh musical panache which did not impinge on the rampant enthusiasm of his act. Three times he hurled himself or was dragged from the stage into the crowd, but as he said afterwards: "No one has gotten hurt at my shows since I decided to take an interest in their welfare. "I don't own a home, but I'm out in debt to anyone in this world. I hire accountants and managers as I see fit and I have six figures of savings in dollars. And I have a wonderful home which is based on my wife." Iggy Pop's UK tour continues tonight at Barrowlands, Glasgow (041 552 4601); tomorrow at the Royal Court, Liverpool (051 709 4321); Sunday and Monday at the Town & Country, London NW5 (01-224 0301); Tuesday at Bristol Academy, London SW9 (01-326 1022).



Life lines: Pop is a superfit 41-year-old

The best 15 will play the Olivier. We applaud all 375. THE THOROUGHBRD BANK. The response to the Lloyds Bank Young Theatre Challenge has been simply overwhelming. The search is now on! Assessors from the National Theatre are already touring the country seeking out the talent and innovation to be chosen for the final event in July. Up to 15 groups will be given the opportunity of a lifetime to present a 3-day showcase on the Olivier stage, offering the very finest of British youth theatre. We look forward to helping even more budding young theatre companies in the Lloyds Bank Young Theatre Challenge in 1989/90. But in the meantime, will all this year's entrants kindly take a bow.

Magnificent Tennessee

THEATRE

Orpheus Descending Theatre Royal Haymarket

After his odyssey through subsidized theatre, Peter Hall picks up the threads of his early career with a long delayed return to Tennessee Williams' Camino Real in 1957 and now Orpheus Descending - two magnificent productions of Williams' most ambitious and personal plays. This revival proves the play to be a splendid piece of story-telling and, like no production I have seen since Streetcar in the 1940s, it reawakens the primary response to this generous, funny, death-haunted writer. A footloose outsider arrives in a small, bigoted community where he disturbs the status quo, for which he is destroyed. That is the archetypal Williams fable. But in no other play does he elaborate it with such social detail, such a sense of the past; or sustain such an equivoque of lyricism, brutality, and caricature within the same controlling metaphor. You may know what is coming when a stranger is taken on as a store assistant by the Sicilian whose redneck husband lies dying upstairs.

But the way in which each event locks into the next is at once unpredictable and inevitable. Alison Chitty sets the piece in Hall's hands, this set becomes an instrument, sometimes expressing everyday events, sometimes reinventing the world of memory and oncoming disaster. The sound score, from rainfall and the thunder of passing trucks to music as sublime as Chekhov's breaking string is minutely judged. You get the flavour of things to come from the prologue between two local gossips - Carol Macready and Mary MacLeod - who begin as dowdy planters' wives and change into grinning demons as they narrate the Ku Klux Klan's burning of the wine garden, and Lady's unwitting marriage to her father's killer. The arrival of Val, heralded by a Smoky Mountains conjure-man, is the first unearthy moment, from which Jean-Marc Barr's performance as a free spirit who cannot even walk to the door without inflaming every woman in sight, follows as much through dramatic preparation as from Barr's jazziily laid-back own work. Encounters are achieved with a high charge of erotic choreography, most of all the meetings with the town's main victim, Carol (Julie Covington), who has accepted the stigma of "freaky vagrant" as a means of revenging herself on the town. It is in relation to her that Vanessa Redgrave shows her two ruling passions as Lady: first defending her as an underdog, and then switching into harsh command when she presents herself as a rival. Redgrave's performance, delivered in a guttural Italian accent, has the naked emotional force and sense of danger that are this actress's hallmark. It is also an inexhaustibly rich study of a damaged woman who has had years to develop a mask. Her first scenes are played at top speed with a business-like concentration on domestic tasks. Her gradual unthawing, reversions to suspicion and anger, and death-wryly grinning as if to say: "I told you so" - offer the greatest acting I have seen for many a long day. Irving Wardle

Love and larceny

TELEVISION

Batters of the sexes, it was revealed on television last night, have been getting the wrong end of the stick, not to say the bath. That talented, witty singer-songwriter of relaxed charm and easy-going mystery, Joan Armatrading told us in a teasingly interesting profile of her, Acoustic (Channel 4), that certain feminists were mistaken to see her song "(I Love It When You) Call Me Names" as a serious critique of a sadomasochistic relationship in which the man had the whip hand. The slap in the face of the song was, in fact, more tongue-in-cheek and, as for the question of who "beat me up and beat me again and over and over and over and over" (and several more over), it was the large woman (in leather and lace) laying, with his complicity, into the little man (in cowboy gear). Paul Gambaccini correctly confined most of his personal probing to the provenance of the songs, but the very surroundings of Armatrading's home invited questions. The neatly fenced paddocks full of horses provided a setting which seems less appropriate for hard

rock than Black Velvet. Indeed, Armatrading and her band performed admirably in a barn: Popping up amid the liberal spreading of straw as a surprised pianist for one of the songs was Elton John, who knows the coat of being called names that one does not love. "It's their way of loving, not mine," is Armatrading's ironic comment in her nominal love song. Similar sentiments were expressed by our old friend Judge Sir Guthrie Featherstone (Peter Bowles) in Example of the Bailiff (ITV) about the habits of petty criminal Tony Timson (Philip Davis) taking the tap end when basking with his wife. And so it proved - Lady Featherstone has to shoulder the hot and cold drips (and unlike Mrs Timson, she did not even falsely accuse her husband of trying to drown her.) John Mortimer's brilliance is to take Example into sitcom comedy, sometimes almost into musical-hall, yet provide as much serious criticism of British justice as did Blind Justice. Yet, as I learnt when serving as a juror in front of a judge pilloried by the press even more than Featherstone, in real courts you get the music-hall without the serious criticism. Andrew Hislop

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BOOKS

A brief candle

Peter Ackroyd on the life and vanishing fame of a professional writer of middling talent, who never quite made it to major

Oblivion is a peculiar thing. Some writers, who do not merit it at all, receive it almost as soon as they are dead; some even seem to recognize their fate in advance, and remain modest or melancholy, sensing that whatever success they enjoy will not last. Joyce Cary has just escaped this fate — but only just. He is at least still in print, and here is a biography 20 years after his death. Already the reviewers are saying that he is "undervalued" — at least since few people will be reading his novels in future years, and I suspect that this substantial and meticulous biography will convert only the already converted.

The lack of attention really is a mystery in Cary's case, since he had all the makings of a "major writer". He was of Anglo-Irish descent, and Brendan Behan's remark that an Anglo-Irishman is "a Protestant on a horse" might have been coined for Joyce Cary himself (the peculiar Christian name, by the way, is simply his mother's surname — indicating, among other things, that James Joyce was a distant kinsman). Certainly he liked at times to think of himself as a "man of action", but he possessed also that lean, quizzical, and slightly haunted look that seems so characteristic of the Anglo-Irish.

He attended Clifton College, where the Christian and imperial ethic was hammered into him; but at first he wanted to be an artist, and he studied both in Paris and in Edinburgh. At Oxford University he led a suitably unhappy and undistinguished life, and it is really only when he volunteered for the Red Cross during the First Balkan War that he first comes to life in this book — striding into danger as he did and, indeed, seeming to relish the situation. Even then he had dreams of becoming a writer, but other demands exerted their toll, and instead, he became a junior administrator in northern Nigeria. There were times when he hated the solitude and dreary monotony of this raw

colonial life, but the business of making maps, building roads, and constructing bridges seemed to console him. He had in any case left a wife and child in England, and he needed the money to support this exiled family. Any yet, and yet... he wanted to be a writer. It is the same familiar but terrible story of ambitions thwarted and gifts unemployed — "I can't do anything, I don't believe — sometimes I don't believe that I ever will do anything."

Eventually in 1920 he returned to England and, at the age of 31, he finally embarked upon the perilous career of the professional writer. It was in fact the right time: he was of an appropriate age to begin, and his experiences in Africa could only serve to extend and deepen the range of his imagination.

Nevertheless he did not succeed at first, and the battle financially to survive was matched only by his struggle to find an appropriate voice and form. Even some years after he began seriously to write, Cary suffered the same lack of confidence together with the same muddled aspirations.

Even his process of composition seems chaotic in the extreme — he worked on different novels at the same time. At first his writing was too much in the head — he had read widely from Hegel to Stuart Mill as if in preparation for some great intellectual rather than creative adventure, and for him the art of fiction was always a matter of theme rather than of plot, of meaning rather than of story.

His prose style was distinct, therefore, without being wholly distinctive. And in that sense this modest and competent biography gives a proper measure of the man as he approached middle age. One reads it with interest, but at no point does the life of Joyce Cary suggest anything other than a writer of talent finding his way through the world. Of course there are moments of sudden and unpredictable behaviour — his decision to go to the front during the Balkan War being one — and it is

GENTLEMAN RIDER
A biography of Joyce Cary
By Alan Bishop
Michael Joseph, £19.95



GLYNN BOYD HARTE

clear that he had a fascination with violence and conflict which in turn suggests a wish for self-forgetfulness, for the temporary abeyance of those internal conflicts which his biographer describes as his "duality".

He began to achieve success in the mid-Thirties (just as he was about to enter his own 50s). The trilogy, *Herself Surprised*, *To be a Pilgrim*, and *The Horse's Mouth* brought him his first real fame. But still he did not seem able to curb his restless energy and his nervous straining towards "significance"; even while he was writing novels he was composing political pamphlets, working on film-scripts, and taking extended trips over the world. All these things detracted from his creative development, and there is nothing more indicative of the man than the almost self-

congratulatory description of "my tons of unfinished and unpublished MSS". There seems to be a sense in which he did not know what kind of writer he wanted to be.

That is why even at the end of this well-documented biography the personality of Joyce Cary seems blurred, out of focus. If he emerges at all, it is in a curiously unsympathetic light. Either he seemed to do what was expected of him, whether as a typical young "Bohemian" in Paris or as a colonial administrator in Nigeria, or he did what he thought he expected of himself. So he seems always to be taking on roles, starting them and then breaking off just as he did with his own written works. In fact it is his death, greeted by him with fortitude and serenity, which provides the most moving and somehow most genuine passage of his life. How doubly sad, therefore, that this should herald the end of Joyce Cary's fame.

Playful poet: manic despair

POETRY

Robert Nye

APRIL GALLEONS
By John Ashbery
Corgi, £3.95

A poem by John Ashbery is like a house full of rooms and the rooms full of fashionable furniture and the furniture all breaking or disappearing as the reader-visitor tries to sit on it only to find himself deposited through a trapdoor or a time-war into another room in perhaps a different house, yet with the same charmingly pointless world view out of the window. Tricks and traps, mirrors and echoes, images that are ghosts of images that have gone before, jokes and games, illusions, allusions: it all comes crowding together in such a parade of unmitigated American High Camp that one can well believe that there are those who find the guy unreadable. This could be considered a pity. Whatever else he might be, Ashbery is a consistently funny writer, his best line the patter of a magician desperate to tell himself how he does it:

Let's start in the middle, as usual. Ever since I burnt my mouth I talk two ways, first as reluctant explainer, then as someone offstage. In a dream, hushing those who might wake you from this dream, Imperfectly got up as a humanist...

That humanist demonstrates his imperfections rather too frequently in the title piece and some of the other "typical" efforts collected in *April Galleons* — but the reluctant explainer is as hypnotizingly plausible as ever. Ashbery's work intrigues because it concentrates a playfully profound imagination upon the whole problem of meaning and identity, and comes up with no answers, only alternative questions in the form of verse that in a sense replaces the joys and anxieties that inspired it.

He has been compared with Wallace Stevens, hailed even as a "philosophical" thinker. I regard this as a serious misrepresentation of his gifts. An English reader of this most brilliant and eccentric of living and working American poets is more likely to be reminded of Edward Lear: there is a similar manic despair informing Ashbery's flights of fancy, though

he doesn't have anything like the Victorian's ear.

It would be hard to imagine a world further removed from Ashbery's than that which provides the subject for investigation in Stanley Cook's *Selected Poems 1972-86* (Littlewood Press, £3). I first noticed Cook's merits some 16 years ago when he published a pamphlet called *Form Photograph* in the front of which he observed that as a schoolteacher for many years he had discovered that he was teaching the same children all the time, only they passed themselves off under different names. That might sound obvious, as does his claim that he is simply writing down accurately what he has observed; but listen to this: "Of course you have observed inaccurately and the inaccurate recording of the distinctive inaccuracies of which you are unaware is the theme of your poems."

When I read that, I sat up and took notice, and it's good to be able to report that Cook's subsequent work seems if anything to be even more interesting, since in the dedication to concentrating on the differences between one 12-year-old bit of human kind and another he is now also raising his eyes to the skyline and writing poems about everything he sees — the landscape and the people of his own particular Northern English patch. I only wish that he would eschew the prosiness of some of his longer pieces, and write more often in the formal measure he employs so well in "Privet Hedge".

*The privet looks over the wall
Like children for toys left out in the street
For people passing or workmen to watch
When their game in the garden grows too small.*

Saturday Books Page: Ardagh on France, portraits by Roy Jenkins, crime, paperbacks

NEW BOOKS

- The Literary Editor's selection of novels of the year (alphabetically):
- A Far Cry* from Kinsington, by Muriel Spark (Constable, £9.95)
 - An Adultery*, by Alexander Theroux (Hamish Hamilton, £12.95)
 - Difficulties with Girls*, by Kingsley Amis (Hutchinson, £11.95)
 - Interior*, by Julian Cartwright (Hamish Hamilton, £11.95)
 - King Ludd*, by Andrew Sinclair (Hodder & Stoughton, £11.95)
 - Latecomers*, by Anita Brookner (Cape, £10.95)
 - Leader of the Band*, by Fay Weldon (Hodder & Stoughton, £10.95)
 - Libra*, by Don DeLillo (Viking, £11.95)
 - Loving and Giving*, by Molly Keane (André Deutsch, £10.95)
 - Mother London*, by Michael Moorcock (Secker & Warburg, £9.95)
 - Nice Work*, by David Lodge (Secker & Warburg, £10.95)
 - Oscar and Lucinda*, by Peter Carey (Faber, £10.95)
 - Out of this World*, by Graham Swift (Viking, £10.95)
 - S*, by John Updike (André Deutsch, £10.95)
 - Second Fiddle*, by Mary Wesley (Macmillan, £10.95)
 - The Beginning of Spring*, by Penelope Fitzgerald (Heinemann, £10.95)
 - The Bonfire of the Vanities*, by Tom Wolfe (Cape, £12.95)
 - The Fifth Child*, by Doris Lessing (Cape, £9.95)
 - The Lost Father*, by Marina Warner (Chatto & Windus, £11.95)
 - The Lyre of Orpheus*, by Robertson Davies (Viking, £11.95)
 - The Satanic Verses*, by Salman Rushdie (Viking, £12.95)
 - The Truth about Lorin Jones*, by Alison Lurie (Michael Joseph, £11.95)
 - The Woman who was God*, by Francis King (Hutchinson, £10.95)
 - Utz*, by Bruce Chatwin (Cape, £9.95)
 - Who Killed Palomino Molero?*, by Mario Vargas Llosa (Faber, £9.95)

Very little light

William Jackson

WORLD WAR II
The Untold Story
By Philip Warner
The Bodley Head, £12.95

limited space, while at the same time adding the new Intelligence gloss, he has made the campaigns almost unrecognizable, and his accounts of them are marred by glaring omissions and unfortunate inaccuracies.

If a Staff College instructor were to mark his work, his comments would be: "Concept excellent; execution fair." He would then add, "I see in your bibliography no reference to the readily available British, American, and Dominion official histories, which are basic to your study." What seems to have let Warner down is his failure to appreciate that, in writing the *Intelligence History*, Professor Hinsley's team gave only an outline of operational events to avoid duplication with the *Grand Strategy* and *Theatre* series of the

British official histories. All three have to be read together, if a new and credible short history of the war is to be written.

There is another factor that militates against any startling revelations by revisionists like Philip Warner. The radical changes, which the new Intelligence data make necessary in earlier accounts of the war, are far fewer than might be expected, because the authors of the operational official histories had full access to the actual Intelligence summaries available to commanders at the time. The phrase "from higher sources" was the coded reference to Ultra. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that he has been hard put to it to justify the subtitle to his book — there is not much untold still to tell.

The best parts of Warner's book are his descriptions of the conditions under which the civilian populations, as well as the military, played their parts. Being a young man at the time, he has been able to recreate the atmosphere of those days: the phoney war, the London blitz, the V-1 and V-2 onslaughts, the convoys at sea, and the feel of the battles on land, sea, and in the air. But he misses the effect of the Intelligence histories on the controversial issues of the war.

In short, Philip Warner has produced a plausible and easily read book, but he has made little or no contribution to a fresh understanding of the Second World War.

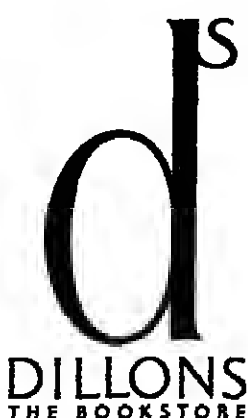
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IS IT FAIR

that man should monopolise such words as argument, elementary, hymn? In all justice arguwoment, elewomentary and hermn would be more suitable says

RONALD SEARLE

in his
NON-SEXIST DICTIONARY

With accompanying drawings to clarify the more obscure words, Ronald Searle's unbiased eye seeks a truce in the eternal war between men and women.

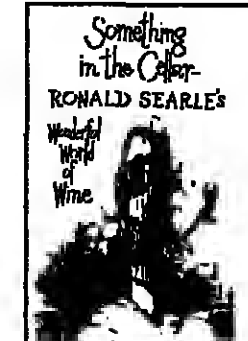


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Thatcher adds support to Armenian aid

PETER TREHOWN



A giant Russian-built Antonov 124 being loaded at Heathrow airport yesterday before leaving for Moscow with emergency aid for Armenian earthquake victims.

By Andrew Billen
Arts Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday sent a message of support to the organizers of Saturday's "Musicians for Armenia" concert at the Barbican Hall, London.

In a letter which will appear as a foreword to the official programme, Mrs Margaret Thatcher says: "I am very grateful to all those who have so generously agreed to take part in this concert to raise money for the

victims of the terrible earthquake in Armenia.

"We are all united in our support for them. The response of the British public has been one of great warmth and generosity, providing help and urgently needed supplies of every sort. I am sure this concert will mean that response will be even more generous. "It shows that a great tragedy can help bring people together so that they stretch out the hand of friendship across the East-West divide."

Mrs Thatcher is away from London on Saturday but the Government will be represented by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary.

He will join Mr Leonid Zanzvatin, the Soviet Ambassador, and Mr Nikolai Fedosov, his cultural attaché. Mr David Sigall, chairman of the British Association of Concert Agents, yesterday said that financial contributions from his members and their clients had taken the association's Armenia appeal to more than £170,000. Contributions include

£100,000 from RCA Victor, which is releasing a record and video of the concert, from which royalties will go to the appeal. The concert, which is being sponsored by *The Times*, begins at 11pm and will be broadcast live on BBC 2 and Radio 3.

The programme includes Beethoven's Coriolan Overture conducted by André Previn with the English Chamber Orchestra; James Galway playing Debussy's *Syrinx*; Mstislav Rostropovich, playing Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 1*, and

accompanying Galina Vishnevskaya, his wife in songs by Tchaikovsky, Vladimir Ashkenazy and Sir Yehudi Menuhin are among musicians who are to broadcast messages of support.

Tickets are available from £10 (including donation) from the Barbican booking office (01-638 8891). Sponsorship inquiries should be directed to Mr Joeke van Walsum, chairman of the organizing committee, on 01-741 5861.

The devastation, page 9

Lawson expected to stay as Chancellor after a reshuffle

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

Senior ministers believe there is a growing likelihood that Mr Nigel Lawson will stay on as Chancellor of the Exchequer after Mrs Margaret Thatcher carries out her expected large mid-term reshuffle next autumn.

The recent conventional wisdom at Westminster that Mr Lawson will go next year because of his difficulties over

welfare benefits, his differences with the Prime Minister and the emergency interest rate action forced on him by the massive trade deficit, is being challenged by some of the Chancellor's senior Cabinet colleagues.

They believe that Mr Lawson, who they see as an intensely proud man, will want to stay on rather than go out on a low note after a highly successful term as Chancellor. Although they are confident the economy will be back on

course by next summer, senior ministers believe it could be some time after then that the full benefits of the recent corrective action taken by the Government will be obvious to the country and MPs.

Mrs Thatcher had been expected to break the logjam at the top of her Cabinet by shuffling the top three posts, Chancellor, Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary, next year. But senior ministers believe that if Mr Lawson lets it be known that he wants to

stay on to complete the tasks he has set himself, it would be politically impossible for Mrs Thatcher to remove him against his will, or indeed would want to oust the man she and her colleagues regard as the best Chancellor the Government has at its disposal.

Her room for manoeuvre would be severely constrained. Mr Lawson is not felt to want to become Foreign Secretary. Doubts over Mr Lawson's

long-term future grew over the last two months when he was embroiled in a row over a briefing he gave to political correspondents which resulted in reports that he planned to extend means-testing of pensioners' benefits.

Differences earlier in the year with Mrs Thatcher over the exchange rate policy and the news that Sir Alan Walters was to return to Downing Street next year as Mrs Thatcher's adviser reinforced the view among Conser-

vatives that Mr Lawson would be relieved to return to the backbenches and take a job in the City.

The recent succession of rises in interest rates, leading to mortgage rate increases more than cancelling out earlier tax cuts, have also taken the glitter off Mr Lawson's successful tenure of the Treasury, and harmed his reputation for competence. Cabinet sources are optimistic that Mr Lawson will not have to increase interest rates again.

£500,000 adverts for eggs

Continued from page 1

infected with salmonella had already cost the taxpayer £500,000 and could cost £10 million to £20 million if the dramatic slump in demand for eggs forced the ministry to start culling flocks and compensating farmers.

Mr Paul Marland, the Conservative MP for West Gloucestershire, who has already called for Mrs Currie's dismissal, said that a £500,000 campaign did not amount to much set against the back-

ground of 10,000 egg industry workers facing the sack by Christmas.

"I don't think the ad is going to do any good. It's a public information activity rather than anything else. The damage has been done."

The advertisement will point out that eggs are a valuable and nutritious part of a balanced diet and that, in normal circumstances, Britons consume 30 million a day.

"The number of reported cases of food poisoning from

salmonella linked to eggs is very small by comparison with the huge numbers of eggs that are consumed", it says.

"So far this year there have been 49 reported outbreaks of salmonella traced back to eggs. These outbreaks have affected 1,000 people, but this underestimates the numbers."

Sales have plummeted by at least 60 per cent since Mrs Currie's remarks. More than 300 million eggs remain unsold.

Leading article, page 17

Mappa Mundi hope

By Craig Seton

The authorities of Hereford Cathedral have held talks with a consortium suggesting millions of pounds could be raised by selling shares in the 13th Century Mappa Mundi.

The Dean of Hereford, the Very Reverend Peter Hayes, has also held discussions with a solicitor representing several wealthy clients who want to discuss buying the map for the cathedral's financial future.

Canon John Tiller, the

Chancellor of the Cathedral, said yesterday that the consortium had suggested selling several thousand high-quality reproductions of the map to shareholders to help raise the £7 million needed for the cathedral's financial future.

Canon Tiller said: "On this basis the map would stay in Hereford, but would be presented to the public in a much more marketable way as a treasure."

Collections alarm, page 5

US urges Israeli pull-out

Continued from page 1

General Walters urged the UN to tell the parties involved that their dispute was resolvable. "We are tired of this conflict and tired of their unwillingness to make fair compromises. We must tell them that the time has come to agree that a negotiated settlement is required."

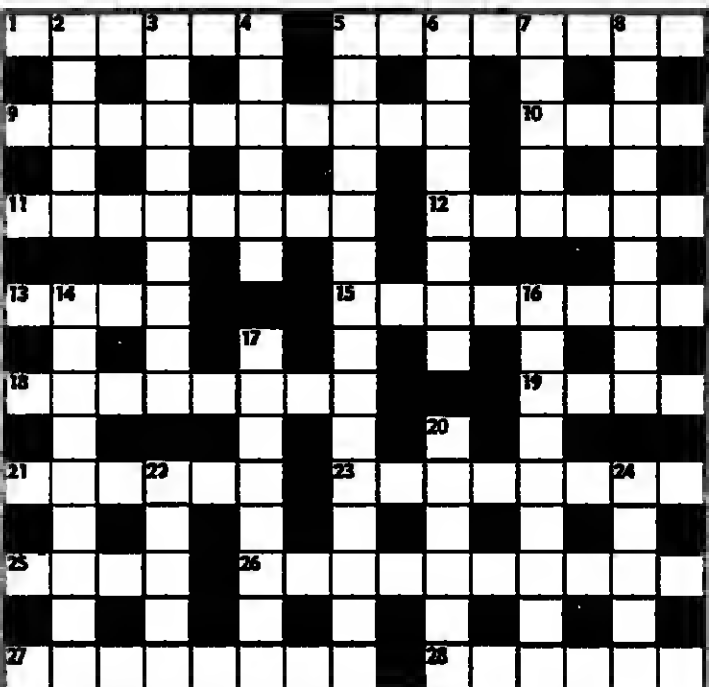
His speech, made 24 hours after the appearance at the UN of Mr Yassir Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, was

firmer in its attitude to Israel than had been expected. It came amid favourable reactions to Mr Arafat's speech from all quarters except Jerusalem, Washington and radical Palestinian groups. Most capitals, including London, were impressed by Mr Arafat's apparent attempts to steer the PLO towards moderation.

Diplomatic sources said that the importance of General Walters' words lay in their timing. Washington has always supported UN Resolu-

tion 242, which calls on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories, but by repeating its position at the special UN session he implied that Washington would not support Jerusalem's refusal to talk to the PLO. His speech partly offset a reaction to the speech by the US State Department, which said that while the tone of Mr Arafat's address was "an improvement", the PLO leader did not "clearly and unambiguously" address US demands.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,853



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- ACROSS**
- 1 Walpole nominated as poet (6).
 - 5 A raw quarter-back who tackled the Trojans (8).
 - 9 Revolutionary time not apt for trial (10).
 - 10 Computer for better transport (4).
 - 11 Refreshment for the gallery (8).
 - 12 Dutch senter carries little weight at the Bar (6).
 - 13 "Hollow pampers" Jades of (2 Hen. IV) (4).
 - 15 Satellite winged for an Apollo mission (8).
 - 18 Master desire to be impetuous (8).
 - 19 Female not quite county (4).
 - 21 Reckoning say the value of Richard's kingdom (6).
 - 23 Spin out elegant composition above love (8).
 - 25 Kitchener would have held one to be most important (4).
 - 26 Relating to the order in which flags should be placed (10).
 - 27 He got MP confused with a witty remark (8).
 - 28 Divisions housed initially under canvas (6).
- DOWN**
- 2 Reform due in order to set up concert hall (5).
 - 3 Joiner appears before lunch, by George! (9).
 - 4 Failing by a point to pass (6).
 - 5 Is this the attraction of Polar bears? (6,9).
 - 6 Guide for worker going to work (6).
 - 7 You need the right numbers for this children's game (5).
 - 8 Cut out of the middle of Hereford (9).
 - 14 Powerboat with funnels? (9).
 - 16 Greyish plant on the lawn (4-5).
 - 17 Wrong river for this reptile (8).
 - 20 Rustic skill producing capital port (6).
 - 22 No good having female in group (5).
 - 24 Realism is the beauty of Keats (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,852



WEATHER

Mild and bright after early fog in south and east England. Cloudy, dry in the southwest and south Wales. Cloud and rain in north west. Scotland reaching Northern Ireland, northern England and North Wales by midnight. Outlook: cooler with night frost. Sunny intervals and showers.

ABROAD		AROUND BRITAIN	
Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind
Algeria 19 01	W 12 04	Cardiff 10 05	SE 12 05
Alexandria 18 01	W 14 07	Dublin 10 05	SE 12 05
Amman 18 01	W 14 07	Edinburgh 10 05	SE 12 05
Amsterdam 12 55	W 14 07	Exeter 10 05	SE 12 05
Ankara 18 01	W 14 07	Gloucester 10 05	SE 12 05
Antwerp 12 55	W 14 07	Harrogate 10 05	SE 12 05
Athens 18 01	W 14 07	Leeds 10 05	SE 12 05
Bahia 18 01	W 14 07	London 10 05	SE 12 05
Bahra 18 01	W 14 07	Manchester 10 05	SE 12 05
Bangkok 18 01	W 14 07	Nottingham 10 05	SE 12 05
Barcelona 18 01	W 14 07	Sheff 10 05	SE 12 05
Batavia 18 01	W 14 07	Southampton 10 05	SE 12 05
Bombay 18 01	W 14 07	Stirling 10 05	SE 12 05
Buenos Aires 18 01	W 14 07	Truro 10 05	SE 12 05
Calcutta 18 01	W 14 07	Wolverhampton 10 05	SE 12 05
Canton 18 01	W 14 07	Wrexham 10 05	SE 12 05
Cebu 18 01	W 14 07	York 10 05	SE 12 05
Colon 18 01	W 14 07		
Hankow 18 01	W 14 07		
Hong Kong 18 01	W 14 07		
Kobe 18 01	W 14 07		
London 18 01	W 14 07		
Lyons 18 01	W 14 07		
Manila 18 01	W 14 07		
Medan 18 01	W 14 07		
Osaka 18 01	W 14 07		
Peking 18 01	W 14 07		
Rangoon 18 01	W 14 07		
San Francisco 18 01	W 14 07		
Singapore 18 01	W 14 07		
Sourabaya 18 01	W 14 07		
Tientsin 18 01	W 14 07		
Yokohama 18 01	W 14 07		

AM



LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 9C (48F); min 9 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F); humidity 1 pm, 87 per cent. Rain: 24th to 6 pm, 0.05 inch; 25th to 6 pm, 0.18 inch. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1006.6 mbars. Surf: 24 to 6 pm, nil.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest temp: Northampton, 22C (72F); lowest temp: Northampton, East Devon, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Angouleme, 1.0 inch; highest sunshine: Glasgow, 4.5 hr.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 4.52 pm to 7.41 am
Bristol 4.52 pm to 7.40 am
Edinburgh 4.08 pm to 6.08 am
Manchester 4.16 pm to 7.50 am
Penzance 4.50 pm to 7.40 am

PM



MANCHESTER

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Manchester 4.16 pm to 7.50 am
Penzance 4.50 pm to 7.40 am

THE POUND

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia \$	2.25	Canada \$	2.25
Belgium S	20.50	Denmark Kr	13.66
France F	6.55	Germany DM	1.93
Italy L	2036	Japan Yen	147.7
Netherlands Gld	2.36	Switzerland Sfr	1.75
Spain Ptas	166.64	USA \$	1.51
Sweden Kr	13.76	Yugoslavia Dnr	13.66
Switzerland Sfr	1.75		
Turkey Lira	2.25		
West Germany M	1.93		
Yugoslavia Dnr	13.66		

Information supplied by Met Office.

Co-op with bank

LOCK WATCH

BERNARDINI

INTEREST RATES

CURRENCIES

GOLD

NORTH SEA OIL

THE TIMES

1019 141 141

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bunzl offshoots in £22 million buyout

Bunzl has sold its London paper trading activities to its management for £6.5 million in cash and the assumption of debt, which takes the final price to about £22 million. Meteor Holdings, the new company formed by the management, has backing from 3i, Hill Samuel, and CIN. It has secured further funding from the National Westminster Bank and will also have support from Bunzl in the form of a £3.5 million interest-bearing loan.

P&O's £1.9m French buy Interim £5m at Halma

P&O is to buy 15 per cent of Les Constructeurs Professionnels Associés (Copro), the French builder, through Bovis International, its subsidiary, for FF21.6 million (£1.98 million) cash. Bovis and Copro will also form a Paris management contracting company, Bovis Copro, to be jointly owned and operated by Bovis International and Copro. Each will hold a 50 per cent share.

Bejam under attack

In the last formal document to Bejam Group shareholders before the Iceland Frozen Foods Holdings offer reaches its next closing date, December 21, Mr Malcolm Walker, chairman of Iceland, says: "In our view, Bejam's current volume growth (sales compared to previous year) is 5 per cent negative. The fundamental difference between Iceland and Bejam is that of growth versus decline."

Yale in \$40m acquisition Thornton up to £1.25m

Yale and Valor is buying Miami-Carey Corp, a large US maker of bathroom cabinets and associated products, for \$40 million (£11.8 million), satisfied by the issue of 7.44 million new shares - 6.4 per cent of the enlarged equity - conditionally placed. Miami-Carey, a private company with three plants, had turnover of \$57.7 million and operating profits of \$4 million in 1987.

Baggeridge leaps 73%

Baggeridge Brick, the West Midlands brick manufacturer, reports a 73 per cent leap in pre-tax profits for the year to end-September, from £4.36 million to £7.54 million. Turnover increased 47 per cent from £16.59 million to £24.96 million, with earnings per share jumping 75 per cent from 14.22p to 24.82p.

A final dividend of 3.75p (2.50p) is declared, making 5p (3.25p). The board recommends a capitalization issue of one share for every share held. Mr Peter Ward, the chairman, said demand was high throughout the year, profits increasing at all factories.

Charter shares dim on bid damper

Try as it might - and what is left of its executive team certainly tried hard yesterday - Charter Consolidated has yet to convince the world that it is not just a puppet on a (Minorco) string.

Interim profits 23 per cent higher at £32.1 million, an underlying 44 per cent improvement by its own industrial subsidiaries, and two whole farthings more on the interim dividend making 4.75p a share, should have sent Charter shares higher.

Instead, they tumbled 27p to 462p - solely because management poured as much cold water as it could on persistent thoughts that the revitalized Minorco, owner of 36 per cent of Charter's equity and determined to shake up its passive investments, is poised to bid.

The market reaction nicely illustrates the point that Charter's figures are largely academic, and that its future lies in the hands and mind of Sir Michael Edwardes and Minorco.

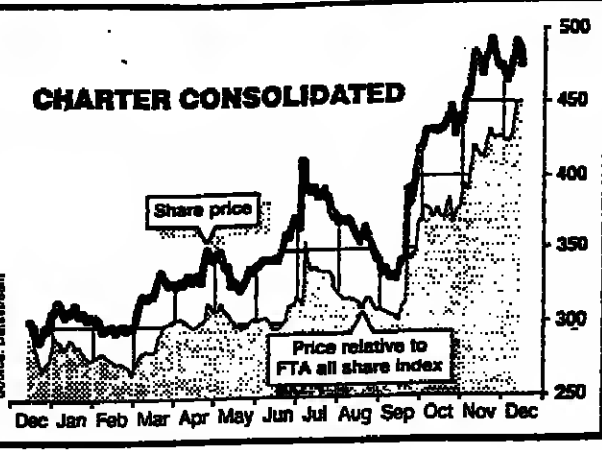
For the unimpaired time Charter unfolded a fresh "plan of action" - outlined its determination to achieve yet higher returns on capital employed, and promised concentration on three or four main business areas.

All Charter businesses and investments are under review by a newly established strategy committee whose definitive study will only be announced in the new year. The impression is that, at last, Charter has found a purpose.

The tenor of its statements and the insistence that there are no sacred cows, coupled with the language of the new palace guards, is a mirror image of the fresh investment spirit running through Minorco. And because Charter has a net cash position of £126 million, with every possibility of this being added to by sales of non-performing assets, Charter - even if only as a first cousin - is a very useful relation to have in any family.

But whatever the figures, the investment message is clear. Charter will one day be chased - and caught - and investors meanwhile should not be short.

HP Bulmer, the cider producer, is locked into an expensive and dangerous strategy. Faced with a declining cider market, Bulmer has decided to invest heavily in arresting the



fall and promoting its own brands at the same time.

It is going to take several years to discover whether the policy has worked and whether drinkers, now bombarded by heavy advertising from the brewing giants, will again start asking for a pint of scrumpy.

In the short term, Bulmer has to put up with shrinking profits. Unhappily, the situation could get worse before it gets better. For the six months to the end of October, the company saw pre-tax profits fall 19 per cent to £6.2 million, worse than analysts had been expecting.

A closer look at the figures shows that the cider and fruit juices division suffered a 32 per cent decline in profits to £4.3 million. Wines, spirits and other drinks - which includes Perrier, marketed by

growth path with profits 60 per cent ahead and its Australian business reports strong sales of Strongbow. The second-half pattern should remain the same as Bulmer has warned of lower results for the full year.

Analysts are looking for not much more than £12.5 million against £15 million last time. The shares, 10p down yesterday at 142p, are on a prospective multiple of about 11.5 where they look expensive against Bass on 7.6. Stick to the Strongbow but leave the shares alone.

Polly Peck

Poor Polly Peck parades its problem daily in one word, credibility. Its lack is on display in a price/earnings ratio which remains stubbornly nearer to five than 10.

In all its years, Polly has seldom even wavered on the high perch of expectations which a handful of brokers placed it. As ever more demanding profits targets were set, with the exception of one particularly difficult year, Polly met them.

The company has survived media suggestions not only that it could not be doing as well as it claimed, but also that operations it owned were nothing more than a collection of tin huts and a vivid piece of imagination. Against that background must be measured the increase

in profits for the year to September 31 from £86.2 million to £107 million before tax, a 15 per cent rise in earnings per share and the forecast dividend increase.

Polly is extending its financial year to December 31, which will cover 16 months for which profits of £142.5 million have been forecast.

The seasonal bias in the business suggests that for the 12 months of 1988 (which will be the base from which 1989 projections will have to be made) will produce profits of around £110 million before tax, and 1989 could see nearly £150 million.

The company is seeking to increase the quality of earnings in order to raise the status of its shares. It has come a long way from its roots as a carton manufacturer and fruit packer in Cyprus, and with 43 per cent of sales now in Europe, can be regarded as a fully-fledged international trader.

In that light, gearing of 60 per cent is modest while interest cover of more than nine is luxurious.

Little by little, the group's credibility problem, which arose from the brief period when the shares were a "wonder stock" chased by all the spivs in the City, will evaporate.

The shares at 272p on a prospective price/earnings ratio of under six for 1989 are one of the best buys on the market.

Hoskyns in 46% advance

Hoskyns Group, one of Britain's largest computer services companies, in which Plessey acquired a 68.3 per cent stake in July, reports a 46 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to end-October, from £6.50 million to £9.51 million. Turnover was up 39 per cent from £79.02 million to just over £110 million. Earnings per share rose 42 per cent from 11.3p to 16.1p, including organic revenue growth of 36 per cent, and the board is paying a final dividend of 2p, making 2.9p (2.1p).

Mr Geoff Unwin, managing director, said the company had achieved satisfactory growth and was well positioned to strengthen operations in Britain as well as expanding in Europe through organic growth, and to seek further progress in the US. Analysts believe the company is well placed in its markets and have upgraded next year's profit forecast to £13 million. Hoskyns' share price was up 3p at 423p.

NTT chairman goes in Recruit share scandal

The Recruit Cosmos share scandal, which last week topped Japan's finance minister, has claimed its latest victim in Mr Hisashi Shinto, chairman of the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation, once Japan's telecommunications monopoly.

His resignation yesterday came after he went back on his earlier statements and admitted that £41,000 had been paid into his bank account, his share of the £95,000 windfall profits made when his personal secretary resold 10,000 shares in the Recruit Cosmos property company. Mr Shinto, aged 78, is one of several senior politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen to have been offered bargain-priced stock in Recruit Cosmos, allegedly in return for political and business favours. The value of the shares soared when the company was later floated on the stock market. Another NTT official, Mr Ei Shikiba, was demoted last

From Jnc Joseph, Tokyo



Miyazawa: biggest casualty week for his involvement in the share scandal.

Lockheed bribes affair for sensational revelations.

Mr Shinto's disgrace was compounded by embarrassing flashbacks on leading Japanese news programmes last night showing a press conference he gave last month. Asked then if he had received any profits from Recruit shares, he answered: "That's completely out of the question. How could I face everybody if I had done such a thing?"

Corporate Estates forms £70m group

Corporate Estates, the US-listed property group, is merging with Marylebone Estates, an unquoted commercial property investment and development group.

The deal will create a company with an asset value of £70 million and cash and bank balances of £8.4 million. The merger, which is conditional on prior approval of shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting called for January 6, is to be effected by Corporate Estates acquiring the entire share capital of ME for the issue of 15.2 million new ordinary shares in CE. Kitkat & Aitken, the broker, will handle the £1 million vendor placing. Mr Leonard Phillips, the managing director of CE, has agreed to place up to a maximum of 980,000 ordinary shares from his personal shareholding. Based on a price of 75p for each ordinary share of CE, the deal values ME at about

£11.37 million. Corporate Estates, at the same time, has forecast a four-fold increase in pre-tax profits for the year to December 31, 1988, to £3.25 million with earnings per share up from 2.07p to 6.13p.

A final dividend of not less than 1.75p per ordinary share is forecast. Pre-tax profits of Marylebone Estates for the year to December 31, 1988, have been pencilled in at £1.75 million, after £230,000 for the seven months to October 31, 1988, and £131,000 for the year to March 31, 1988. Mr Phillips, of CE, and Mr John Harrison, of ME, are long-standing family friends and agree the deal is "perfect" for both parties. The merger consolidates property assets into an enlarged group, providing greater flexibility in the retention of prime properties for longer term investment growth. Shares of CE touched 70p on the announcement before closing 7p higher at 65p.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
December 5	December 18	March 8	March 20
Call options were taken out on 14/12/88. Securities: Portland, Cornhill, Venture, BSF, EFA, Farners, Addison, Cogsw, Grand Mot, PNL, Reedstock, Charter, Cons, Holmes, Protection, Ultramar, North Katgurt Mines, Parkfield, C Church, Dewey Warren, Moorings, Putc, Helled Bar.			

DESIGN COMPETITION for the development of the **First Government House Site** and adjacent sites SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

In 1788, only four months after the first European settlement on Australia's east coast, the colony's First Government House was built on a site which is now part of Sydney's Central Business District. To commemorate this event, and the Bicentenary of the settlement of the colony in 1788, the New South Wales Government is convening a major two-stage design competition for the development of the site.

The competition will elicit designs of the highest quality which conserve and commemorate the historic remains and buildings and which provide for a significant and sympathetic commercial development of the remainder of the city block. The budget for the total project will be in excess of \$A800 million.

The competition, leading to a commission to design and document the project is endorsed by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and is open to architects registered in the Commonwealth of Australia.

All enquiries to: Mr Brian Eastoe, Competition Registrar, First Government House Site Competition, c/o NSW Public Works Tender Board, Level 18, State Office Block, Phillip Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, AUSTRALIA. Telephone (02) 228 5198. Fax (02) 228 5176.

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT 899	CJ 2,131	Laporte 295	Seatch 1,915
Almay 1,748	Cong Gold 1,076	LIS 1,076	Sainsbury 322
Alco-Lyons 1,154	Cookson 258	Lloyds 2,272	Scott 6 N 103
Arzard 648	Coatswoods 2,774	Lorrho 3,543	Sears 4,489
ASDA 3,492	Deputy 228	Luxon 143	Sevenswick 281
AB Foods 16	Dixon 2,741	Magnet 223	Shell 6,466
Argyll 4,858	ECC 758	MSS 1,121	Sieble 41
BAA 482	Enterprise 1,573	Mowat Cm 945	Stangh 322
BET 452	Farrill 2,238	MB Group 454	Smith 6 N 2,554
BTR 1,580	Fisons 882	MEPC 870	Smith WH 773
BAT 1,897	FD District 1,983	Midland 591	Smiths Ind 1,586
Berlay 3,309	Gateway Cp 3,553	Midwest 1,519	STC 1,833
Bess 514	Gen Acc 44	Next 3,178	Stan Chart 2,027
Bechem 1,870	GEN 8,541	Nif Food 91	Stonrose 2,224
Bescon 798	Geco 768	P&O 458	Sun Atlas 382
Bertels BW 2,579	Globe Inv 983	Pearl 150	T & N 28
BICC 147	Glynwed 768	Pearson 51	Tarmac 1,294
Blue Arrow 5,292	Genacs 1,251	Plington 447	Tate & Lyle 48
Blue Circle 731	Grand Mt 611	Plessey 2,469	Taylor Wood 180
BOC 287	GUS 'A' 98	Poly Peck 1,062	TSD 867
Boots 2,010	GRE 98	Prodist 548	Tesco 1,018
BPL 528	GKN 431	Racal 3,828	Thorn EM 448
Br Aero 314	Guinness 245	Racal Tele 3,494	Tredgar 1,545
Br Land 1,773	Hamm 'A' 23	Ra Horv 701	TIP 1,342
Br Comen 793	H C C 18	RAC 219	Ultramar 1,887
Br Gas 7,447	Hilldown 2,546	RBC 118	Ungate 1,418
Br Land 1,773	Hilldown 2,546	Richardson 325	Unilever 639
Br Petrol 8,299	IM 1	Flint 1,812	United Sil 1,472
Br Telecom 24,004	ICI 2,071	Flint 1,812	United Sil 1,472
Burns 1,277	Inchcape 1,701	Flint 1,812	United Sil 1,472
Burns 2,783	Jaguar 231	Flint 1,812	United Sil 1,472
CSW 641	James 1,832	Flint 1,812	United Sil 1,472
Caubury 3,094	Land Sec 948	Flint 1,812	United Sil 1,472
Coors 7,984		Flint 1,812	United Sil 1,472

COMPANY NEWS

BR. BLDG. & ENG. (Int) Pre-tax: £0.42 (£0.20)m EPS: 22.3 (11.4)p Div: 2p	Turnover rose to £3.47 (£2.76)m. The company continues to improve its sales and hire business.
CAFFYNS (Int) Pre-tax: £1.50 (£1.15)m EPS: 42.1 (32.1)p Div: 5 (4.2)p	Chairman is confident that company is poised to sustain continuing improvement in profitability.
CHEMIRING GROUP (Fm) Pre-tax: £4.26 (£3.85)m EPS: 56.3 (51.6)p Div: 21.5 (18.6)p	Net asset value 376.8 (328.9)p. Current order book is strong and prospects for new orders in year ahead are good.
DOCTUS (Fm) Pre-tax: £1.81 (£1.08)m EPS: 10.28 (4.51)p Div: 1.50 mkg 2 (0.25)p	Company announces acquisition of MSN Group (Management Support Network) for a maximum consideration of £1 million.
ERF HLDS. (Int) Pre-tax: £2.64 (£1.60)m EPS: 30.32 (19.04)p Div: 4 (2)p	Trading in the second half of the year continues to be buoyant.
EVE GROUP (Int) Pre-tax: £1.78 (£1.48)m EPS: 12.4 (10.3)p Div: 2 (1.5)p	Work in hand for contracting divisions is now at record levels.
FULLER SMITH & T (Int) Pre-tax: £3.40 (£3.22)m EPS: 8.90 (8.30)p Div: 1.55p (1.32p)	The company anticipates a smaller-than-expected rise in profits for the full year.
MOORGATE INV. TRST. (Int) EPS: n/a Div: 2.4 (1.9)p	Expected final dividend of not less than 5.1p making total (excluding 0.50p special dividend) of 7.5p (6.5p).
DANAIE INVST. TRST. (Int) Pre-tax: £0.32 (£0.25)m EPS: 3.39 (3.03)p Div: 3 (2.55)p	Net asset value per capital share 55.77 (41.48)p.

BAGGERIDGE BRICK PLC

RESULTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1988

- Turnover up 47%
- Turnover increased from £16.99 million to £24.96 million.
- Pre-tax profits up 73%
- Record pre-tax profits for sixth consecutive year - up from £4.36 million to £7.54 million.
- Dividends up 54%
- Final dividend 15% making 20% for the year.
- Earnings per share up 75%
- Earnings per share increased from 14.22p to 24.82p.
- 1 for 1 scrip issue proposed

Copies of the illustrated report and accounts for the year ended 30th September, 1988 will be available after 24th January, 1989 from the Secretary, Baggeridge Brick PLC, Gosport End, Sedgley, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 3AA.

THE DAVID WATT MEMORIAL PRIZE

Following his tragic and untimely death in March 1987, The David Watt Memorial Prize was introduced in 1988 to commemorate his life and work.

Organised, funded and administered by RTZ, the Memorial Prize is a tribute to a man widely regarded as one of the UK's outstanding writers, thinkers and political commentators.

Those eligible for the annual prize of £2,000 are writers actively engaged in writing for newspapers and journals, in the English language, on international and political matters. Their writings, in the opinion of an adjudicating panel, will have made outstanding contributions towards the clarification of international and political issues and the promotion of greater understanding of such issues.

The closing date for entries and nominations is 20th March 1989. Full details and Entry Forms are available from The Administrator, The David Watt Memorial Prize, RTZ Limited, 6 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LD.

Scotch wh...
EEC decis...
Redu...
rise...
K...
A...
THE...
A...
Market lament

Scotch whisky boosted by EEC decision on 40% rule

By Michael Dynes and Derek Harris

European Economic Community agriculture ministers yesterday agreed on a liquor-labelling regulation which will protect the Scotch whisky industry and prevent manufacturers of cheaper imitations from passing off their products as the real thing.

After implementation of the new regulation, which still has to be approved by the European Parliament, no one will be able to sell anything called whisky unless it has a minimum of 40 per cent alcohol by volume.

The move was welcomed by the Scotch Whisky Association as a big boost to the industry, but the Association

of Low Strength Scotch Whisky Producers called it "a bad, mad decision."

Mr John MacGregor, the Minister of Agriculture, said: "This is very good news for the Scotch whisky industry, which is one of Britain's major export earners."

He said the breakthrough came after a midnight discussion with his Irish counterpart, Mr Michael O'Kennedy, which resulted in the unanimous agreement required for the decision to pass into Community law.

Britain has been involved in six years of complex negotiations to define EEC-wide alcohol production standards

and minimum strengths, but Ireland, which sells modest quantities of "whiskey" at less than 40 per cent alcohol by volume, proved to be the main stumbling block.

Mr MacGregor also said he had been assured that proposed changes in Japan's liquor tax - which heavily discriminates against Scotch whisky - will be introduced in April.

Lower strength Scotch whiskeys, often selling at about £2 less than typical full-strength brands, may not disappear from supermarket shelves for some time.

An attempt to protect them "for several Christmases yet"

by securing a long changeover period is to be made by the Association of Low Strength Scotch Whisky Producers.

The association is seeking meetings with ministers at the Ministry of Agriculture. Mr Malcolm Hurleston, the chairman, said the EEC decision would "have the effect of making whisky uncompetitive against other spirits and reducing the choice available to the customer."

Scotch whiskeys of under 40 per cent alcohol content have represented a growing sector in British retailing because the lower strength means a lower price, as less duty is paid.

Peers warn of 1992 threat

Britain's financial services industry will not enjoy the full benefits of the Single European market in 1992 until the exchange rate is stabilized, a House of Lords report says today. It also favours Britain joining the European Monetary System.

The peers' EEC select committee, chaired by Lord Keston, gives a cautious welcome to a European financial area without exchange controls between member states and backs greater use of the Ecu, without wanting it to be a common currency.

Scottish buy

Wace Group has acquired David J Clark, a Scottish printer, for up to £3.6 million. The initial consideration of £2 million will be satisfied by the issue of 136,000 new shares and £1.66 million in cash.

News board

Mr Michael Ruda, group marketing director for News International newspapers and former advertising director of Times Newspapers, has been appointed to the board of News International, which owns The Times.

Bid falls short

The attempt by Oliver Resources of Dublin to win control of North West Exploration, the Northern Irish explorer, has failed. The offer was accepted in respect of 4.2 million North West shares. Together with shares already owned, this gave Oliver 43.04 per cent. The bid has lapsed.

Listing sought

Sandell Group, the West Midlands office fitting specialist, is seeking a quotation on the USM following an £878,000 placing. Greg, Middleton are placing 30 per cent of the shares at 117p each, valuing the company at £2.9 million.

Healthy boost

Shares in the USM-quoted Health Care Services, leapt 20p to 81p as the board said it had received approaches from several parties which may lead to a bid for the company.

Bowater sale

Bowater Industries is selling its Cross Paperware business to Scott Paper. The division has gross sales of about £90 million.



Advertising campaign: Clive Leach and Derek Palmer, the chairman (right), yesterday

Redundancy plan pegs profit rise to 15.6% at Yorkshire

By Rosemary Unsworth

Yorkshire Television, the smallest of the Big Five ITV contractors, would have seen profits rise by 30 per cent last year but for a large redundancy and reorganization programme designed to shed 150 jobs by next June.

The scheme, which the company instituted in October, has so far seen 91 staff take voluntary redundancy or early retirement. The aim is that this year's costs of £3.68 million, against £350,000 last time, will not be repeated next year. The wage bill also fell £900,000 although only slightly fewer programmes were produced during the year.

Pre-tax profits were nevertheless raised 15.6 per cent from £13.5 million to £15.64 million while net advertising

revenue rose 8 per cent from £119.6 million to £129.4 million in the year to September 30 1988. A final dividend of 6.6p a share, making a total of 9.6p, a 20 per cent rise, has been recommended.

Mr Clive Leach, Yorkshire's managing director, who is mounting a marketing campaign to draw advertisers back to the Yorkshire region, said: "Advertising income was up 8.2 per cent over the previous year. But the company's share of network advertising revenue fell from 9.19 per cent to 6.93 per cent indicating a drift to southern companies."

Sales to the ITV network, shown for the first time following accounting changes between the network and the

contractors from September 2 1988, were worth £5.7 million. Channel Four sales fell to £3.18 million (£4 million) as the phasing of payments for some programmes differed.

Sales to the United States rose from £1.35 million to £1.8 million on the strength of The Attic, the story of Anne Frank, which won an Emmy award. Other sales, including the Mills and Boon stories, helped produce £2.85 million against £2.06 million.

Investment in the loss-making Super Channel cost Yorkshire a one-off £5.45 million last year.

Mr Leach said that although satellite television will be more available in 1989 broadcast television will "remain the dominant medium during the next few years."

'Cheap' Peel offer, by London Shop

By Cliff Feltham

London Shop, the property developer, has urged its shareholders not to allow Peel Holdings to buy the company "on the cheap."

London Shop, fighting a £283 million bid from Peel, claims it has a record of consistent growth. In a de-

fence circular to shareholders, Mr John Bushell, the chairman, says an up-to-date valuation is being prepared by the surveyors Healey & Baker, which is expected to throw up a big increase in net asset value.

Peel, the edge-of-town developer which already speaks for 29.9 per cent of London

Shop, last week raised its offer to 315p a share cash.

Last night Mr John Whitaker, the Peel chairman, said London Shop's circular showed how small its development programme had been in comparison with its whole portfolio.

London Shop shares were unchanged at 318p.

BCMB has the Edge

Cocking a snook at the retrenchment going on elsewhere in the City, British & Commonwealth Merchant Bank is pushing ahead with its expansion plans and has, I hear, poached a four-strong private client portfolio management team from Lazard's. The team, comprising directors Christopher Edge, aged 55, an executive director of Standard Chartered Bank, was responsible for its commercial banking operations in Europe, tropical Africa and southern Asia. He had been with the bank for 33 years and in April this year was appointed chairman of the Tropical Africa Advisory Group by the Minister of

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

A loss to Standard

The City's fears were confirmed yesterday when one of its own workers was identified as a victim of the Clapham train disaster. Alan Wren, an executive director of Standard Chartered Bank, was responsible for its commercial banking operations in Europe, tropical Africa and southern Asia. He had been with the bank for 33 years and in April this year was appointed chairman of the Tropical Africa Advisory Group by the Minister of

Trade. "He had worked in various hot spots around the world including Iran, Aden and Zimbabwe, only to meet his death in this way," said a shocked colleague. Wren, who lived in a flat in London during the week, was returning from his country home in Dorset, where he had spent the week-end with his wife, and had boarded the train at Bournemouth. Our sincerest condolences go to his wife Heather and three sons, Malcolm, Timothy and Simon.

Is a downright bloody shame. The foreign hordes descended. They came like Attila the Hun. At the personal invitation



Of Sir Nicholas Goodison. Open the doors, he blithely said. There is business here a plenty. To the thousands who are out of work. That promise has proved empty. It is easy two years later. To say I told you so. But they didn't want to listen. They didn't want to know. So many good men out of work. And thousands more will follow. If this is progress, then, my friends. It is very hard to swallow. A once great institution. Destroyed by a deadly coup. Never before in the City. Has so much damage been done by so few.

A study in scarlet faces

Sherlock Holmes is alive and well - according to the British Steel Share Information Office in Bristol, at least. For the stream of complaints about the curious confusion of names and addresses used by that office have culminated in a share application form which was sent, in all seriousness, to one Dr Sherlock Holmes at his immortal address, 221B Baker Street, London, NW1. But surprising though it might sound, the British Steel share office is not alone in its mistake. That address, now part of the Abbey National Building Society's London head office - it occupies numbers 215-229 Baker Street - receives more than a dozen letters a day for the legendary detective. "We employ a full-time secretary to answer them," an amused Abbey National spokesman tells me. "Some of them are from nutters, wanting him to help them solve mysteries or find lost jewellery, and just now we're getting a lot of Christmas cards. We reply to them all - usually telling people that he has retired to Sussex and keeps bees. It seems to keep them happy." Far from happy, however, is barrister Conrad Deha who received his share application form yesterday, a week after dealings began. "It's absolutely deplorable that it should have taken three weeks to reach me," he says. But, given the performance of the British Steel share price, perhaps they did him a favour.

Carol Leonard

Hillsdown 'bid' is referred

Any prospective bid for Pittard Garnar by Hillsdown Holdings, the food group with leather interests, has been temporarily blocked by a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Pittard is already the subject of a referred £41 million bid by Strong & Fisher, another quoted leather company.

The decision by Lord Young, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to look at a "contemplated" bid has puzzled Hillsdown.

Last week it took the unusual step of asking for a ruling on whether an offer for Pittard or an increase in its stake from the current 16.6 per cent level would be grounds for a reference. It said its inquiry did not indicate that it would make a bid.

Lord Young has also stopped Hillsdown from buying any more shares in Pittard. He used the same order to make the prohibition that was implemented after Elders DXL went on its share-buying spree in Scottish & Newcastle Breweries the day its £1.6 billion bid was referred to the MMC. The power was also used to stop Strong & Fisher buying any more Pittard shares when its bid was referred.

The MMC has been asked to make its report in three months. Lord Young considers that there are possible effects on competition in sheepskin felling, particularly in Scotland, which deserve investigation.

Strong & Fisher shares fell 1p to 224p and Pittard slipped 1p to 129p.

Armstrong acceptances

Wardle Stores, the plastic sheeting manufacturer bidding £80 million for Armstrong Equipment, has received acceptances for about 3.6 per cent of the shares and the offer will now close on December 28.

Armstrong's board has noted the low level of acceptances and has urged shareholders to take no action and continue to support the company's new management under the chairmanship of Mr Ray Watts, of Thames Water.

Avimo losses hit United

More than £3 million of losses at the troubled Avimo (Tamton) operation have left United Scientific's pre-tax profits lower at £10.1 million for the year to end-September, against £11.1 million.

Earnings per share fell from 14.4p to 9.4p, but the board is recommending a higher final dividend, raising the total for the year from 6.6p to 7.3p.

COMMENT

'Stop me and sell one' - Lawson's latest offer

When the public sector borrowing requirement turned into a public sector debt repayment, it was perhaps inevitable that a way would be found to formalize the buying-in of gilts. The Chancellor's announcement of a clumsily-titled "reverse auction" for gilts, to be held on January 13, which happens to be a Friday, is the chosen method. What will be next step - turning National Savings into National Spendings?

The reverse auction, in which the Bank will buy in £500 million in total of two short-dated gilts, will bring the buying-in process out of the closet and into the open. Nobody else seems to have tried anything like this, but then present conditions are unusual. No longer will buying-in be discussed and agreed in hushed-tone conversations between market-makers and the Bank. Now everyone with at least £1,000 of the relevant gilts will be able to offer them at the reverse auction, even Aunt Agatha.

The stocks that the Bank will buy in at the auction, which will consist of just under an eighth of the total amount of Exchequer 11 per cent 1989 and Exchequer 10 per cent 1989 in issue, are not particularly exciting. The Bank has been conducting much of its buying-in, in the present circumstances of large public sector surpluses, at the long end of the gilt market. The auction is almost in the nature of what can be thought of as more normal buying-in - when the Bank takes on stock ahead of redemption, partly to ensure an orderly market.

The announcement of the reverse auction is a reminder of just how fast the public finances have turned around over the past two years. Then, normal auctions were announced, as an experiment, but with the aim of providing the Bank with a new weapon in its armoury for the time when large public sector borrowing requirements returned. Now we have a reverse auction, and the inevitable conclusion that, in formalizing the buying-in process, the authorities think that public sector debt repayments are here to stay.

That may be premature. Although there are plenty of learned treatises pointing to the continuation of the present position, and to a sharp contraction of the gilt market over time, this has not yet been tested in the conditions of an economic slowdown. Notwithstanding yesterday's strong figures for manufacturing output, maybe we are on the brink of that slowdown now.

Royal's novel solution

The Royal Bank of Scotland, helped by its merchant bank Charterhouse and by Swiss Bank Corporation investment banking, has found a novel way of increasing its capital resources to help meet the new supervisory requirements agreed by the Group of Ten central banks in July.

The Royal is raising \$400 million from the issue of perpetual floating rate notes. Because the loan is perpetual, the Bank of England has confirmed that it counts as upper case, tier 2 capital under the international convergence of capital standards agreement.

This stipulates that banks must maintain capital resources of at least 8 per cent, of which at least half must be tier 1 capital and at least half of tier 2 "upper case" (i.e. perpetual rather than term).

The perpetual loan has been made attractive to investors by creating a put option under which, after 15 years, holders have the option annually of selling the notes to a new vehicle created separately from The Royal. The details of this vehicle and other arrangements remain confidential.

Mr Kenneth Thompson, The Royal's finance director, said: "We are delighted with this issue. It will provide qualifying capital at very attractive economic cost. This, together with a further issue of term subordinated debt planned for 1989, will satisfy fully the Group's foreseeable capital requirements, taking account of both the Citizens acquisition in the USA and our recently announced European alliance with Banco Santander."

Following The Royal's acquisitions this year the stock market had been anticipating a rights issue. But Mr Sandy Muirhead, Charterhouse Corporate Finance director, said yesterday: "This categorically and emphatically dispels any chance whatsoever of a rights issue." The Royal's shares rose 2p to 340p.

Building a portfolio

There is nothing like 13 per cent base rates to focus the minds of housebuyers, especially those of first-time buyers and in the over-mortgaged South-east, and the heat has gone out of the housing market. At this time of year little would be moving in any case, and it will be into the New Year before the housebuilders and their City followers can get much of a handle on 'he market.

In a timely note on the housebuilding sector, Fred Wellings, analyst at Alexander Laing & Cruickshank, who has seen more booms than most and even a few busts in the 1970s, reckons the institutions will be missing a trick if they do not use the present "short-term correction" to buy housebuilding shares. He calculates the average price/earnings ratio is 6.6 for the year ending in two weeks' time, and 6 for the year to next June. Eight companies stand on second-year forecasts of under 5.

The company he rates as the most interesting is Countryside, which has all its eggs in the London commuter belt although it also has a sensible commercial programme. It is hard to disagree.

Sanwa Bank is now listed on the London Stock Exchange

The Konoike Exchange House, 1656

A leader among Japanese financial institutions, The Sanwa Bank, Limited has a long history that can be traced back to the Konoike Exchange House, which was founded in 1656.

Today, Sanwa is the world's fifth* largest bank in terms of total assets, with a network covering major financial centers worldwide. Always in the forefront of financial innovation, Sanwa has also ranked consistently among the most profitable Japanese banks in recent years.

In Europe, where we have been active for over thirty years, Sanwa provides a wide range of financial services to governments, corporations, and individuals. We are particularly proud to represent Japanese banks as a Financial Co-ordinator for the Eurotunnel Project, recognized everywhere as the "Project of the Century."

With the listing of our shares on the London International Stock Exchange, our commitment to the important European market is further reinforced.

*1987 Institutional Investor survey

Sanwa Bank

The Sanwa Bank, Limited

Tokyo Headquarters: 1-1, Ottemachi 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan Tel (03) 216-3111
 London Branch: Commercial Union Bldg, 1 Undershaft, London EC2A 8LA England Tel (01) 283-5252
 Manchester Representative Office: Ship Canal House, 98 King Street, Manchester M2 4WU, England Tel (061) 835-3088
 Sanwa International Limited: 1 Undershaft, London EC2A 8BR, England Tel (01) 623-7991

Incorporated in Japan and interven authorized by The Securities Association

Tied agents to escape rules on disclosure

By Vivien Goldsmith Family Money Editor

Independent financial advisers fear the end of a strong independent sector under proposals by the Securities and Investments Board.

They will be compelled to disclose their percentage commission on products they sell, while agents tied to one company are exempt.

Fidelity Investment Services attacked the discussion document, issued yesterday. It said it was making a strong representation direct to the SIB expressing its "extreme concern that these rules could virtually destroy the independent intermediary market."

The proposals mark out independent financial advisers who owe a duty to their clients from salesmen tied to one company who remain the agent of the life office.

The independent will have to tell clients from the outset that they will be paid a commission. Within 14 days of a proposed contract, the life or unit trust company will have to set out in writing the percentage of the premium to be paid in commission.

Companies will also have to set out the effect of charges, and it is proposed that they are also shown as a percentage of premiums. But for with-profits policies SIB proposes a booklet should be available on request showing the life office's financial strength, investment and bonus policies, expenses and factors such as whether it is a mutual society.

Enterprise rises on bid hopes

Takeover fever blazed afresh in the oil sector last night amid talk that Enterprise, the independent North Sea oil group, is soon to be the subject of a 750p-a-share bid from Atlantic Richfield, the Canadian group which is already a big North Sea player.

Enterprise responded with a leap of 27p to 515.5p on turnover of 1.6 million shares as dealers heard that a bid was on the way. The prospect of the integrated European market after 1992 apparently has made Arco look to acquire more North Sea acreage and Enterprise fits the bill perfectly, according to one dealer.

The talk coincided with another report that London & Scottish Marine Oil is close to completing the long-awaited auction of its 25.2 per cent stake in Enterprise. Dealers believed that the two were connected and that Lasmo had agreed a sale with Arco. The prospect of Lasmo reaping 750p a share for its shareholding helped the shares of Lasmo climb 15p to 462.5p in sympathy.

If Arco does emerge as the buyer of Lasmo's stake in Enterprise it will confound many brokers who had put their money on the shares crossing the Channel to end in the hands of Elf Aquitaine, the French oil group.

However, the Lasmo holding has been on the market for more than two months, and at least three bids for the entire parcel of shares had been submitted by last month. Dealers, therefore, feel that a result must be imminent although one sceptic observer

suggested that the market will not be put out of its misery until the Government's "golden share" in Enterprise expires at the end of this year.

Interest in the sector was also enlivened by late confirmation from BP that it is in negotiations with RTZ, the mining and industrial group, regarding the possible sale of its minerals business. BP closed 6p higher at 259p and RTZ 4p higher at 392.5p.

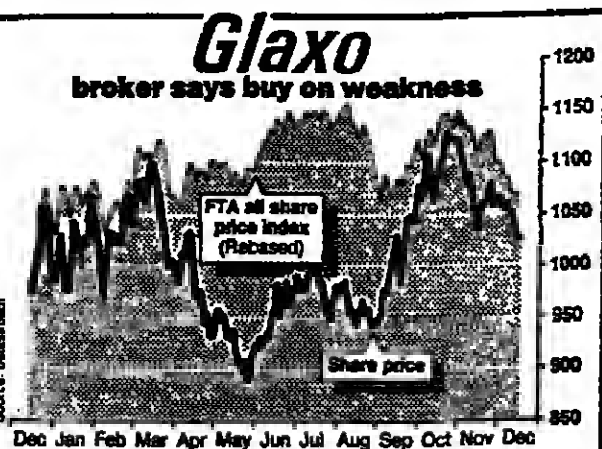
The rest of the market drew comfort from the slightly better-than-expected October US trade figures which showed a deficit of \$10.35 billion (\$3.68 billion), just below September's shortfall of £10.67 billion.

This helped dealers recover from the early shock administered by Coats Vyeella, the textile group. It gave a warning that pre-tax profits for this

year could plummet by as much as 40 per cent because of the current strength of the pound and higher interest rates. This depressed the textile sector. Shares of Coats Vyeella dropped 9.5p to 133p and also unsettled sentiment elsewhere.

The FT-SE 100 share index fell nearly 11 points at one stage, before rallying with the help of a steadier opening on Wall Street and activity in oils to finish 3.5 points up at 1,756.1. The narrower FT 30 share index closed 1.5 points off at 1,424.2.

STOCK MARKET



Shares of Relta-Royce closed unaltered at 126.5p, after 125p. Dealers had to contend with talk that the European Commission is to order the British Government to lift the 15 per cent ceiling on foreign shareholdings in the company.

Glaxo, Britain's biggest pharmaceuticals company, found an ally in the shape of Ms Susan Haylock, analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker. She believes that the market got hold of the wrong end of the stick on Monday after selling the shares in reaction to the company's admission at the annual meeting that sales in the first five months of the current year

increased by 16 per cent to £892 million.

Thinking that this represented a slowdown in growth, following the 20 per cent increase in sales achieved in the first half of last year, dealers turned bearish, but Ms

Kwik Save, the food retailer, was unchanged at 352.5p in a depressed sector. WI Carr sees the shares as a buy and says it is a defensive stock in an environment of high interest rates and less buoyant consumer spending, with sales volume in areas less dependent on discretionary spending.

Haylock points out that once currencies and disposals are stripped out from the five-month figure, underlying sales growth in the current year has been maintained at 20 per cent.

She has downgraded her pre-tax profits forecast for 1988/9 because of the de-

pressed dollar over the past few months, but still reckons that Glaxo's core business remains strong and any weakness in the share price provides an opportunity to acquire the shares. Glaxo closed unchanged at £10.25p.

Beecham, the Marmite-to-drugs group headed by Mr Bob Bauman, moved up 5p to 466p as more than 1.5 million shares changed hands.

Sentiment was helped by news that Genentech, the rival US-based pharmaceutical group, had forecast a decline in revenue and a loss for the fourth quarter because of sluggish sales of Activase, its heart drug.

Activase is a big competitor to Beecham's own heart drug, Eminase, which is sold only in Europe and any deterioration in Activase's progress is good news for Beecham.

Following hectic traded options activity, GEC, the cash-rich electrical group, continued to attract buyers and closed 5p higher at 189p, amid widespread speculation that Lord Weinstock, the GEC chairman, is about to have the tables turned on him. More than 7 million shares changed hands.

More than 24 million British Steel shares changed hands, closing up 0.25p at 60p, the partly-paid price. Private investors only received their allotment letters on Monday and so far have been deterred from selling by the reluctance of the shares to move above the partly-paid debut level.

Geoffrey Foster

WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street shares were lower but steady following news of strong capacity use and industrial output, Mr Newton Zinder, analyst at Shearson Lehman Hutton, said.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 6.75 to 2,136.74 in early trading.

Declining issues held a moderate lead over advancing shares.

The US October merchandise trade gap narrowed to a seasonally adjusted \$10.35 billion (\$5.68 billion) from \$10.67 billion in September.

Table of stock market data including company names, share prices, and changes. Includes columns for Dec 13, Dec 12, Dec 13, Dec 12, Dec 13, Dec 12.

Table of Canadian prices for various companies like Agropac, Can Pac, etc.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table of London traded options for various companies and indices, showing call and put prices.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc



Clearing banking and financial services from over 840 branches throughout the UK and overseas

Merchant banking, development capital, stockbroking and securities

Leasing, factoring, instalment finance, hire purchase, contract hire and travel

Investment management

Insurance underwriting covering motor, home and credit insurance

PROFITS EXCEED £300m FOR THE FIRST TIME



The year to 30th September 1988 has been one of record growth for the Group, with profits before tax exceeding £300 million for the first time. Our objective is to remain an independent group, offering an increasing variety of services and possessing a unique blend of cultures and skills. We intend not merely to sustain this strong performance but to improve upon it.

difficult year and Britain has been in the forefront, with domestic demand reaching a peak of 7% this summer. This has brought a rise in inflation, a deterioration in our balance of payments, and progressive interest rate increases. We hope demand trends can be slowed down to permit a more modest but sustainable growth.

Looking ahead, the advent of the single European market in 1992 and a reduction in oil earnings point to a need for further improvement in UK productivity to match our neighbours.

Participation in the Community In its first year, the Group Community Fund subscribed £180,000 to deserving causes in job creation, the national heritage and the environment, including conservation groups. We believe it is incumbent on us to participate fully in the community and will continue to identify and assist deserving projects.

The Future Our goal is prudent growth, development and success to ensure the Group's continuing independence, with automation and technology assuming increasing importance.

We will follow our traditional approach of prudent and careful appraisal of any new development or opportunity, while still maintaining flexibility. The wide variety of our markets presents both challenges and opportunities. We remain confident in the Group's strengths, its adaptability to meet these challenges and its ability to succeed in the years ahead.

Table of Key Figures: Profit before taxation (£309.2m), Total assets (£21,659.9m), Dividends per 25p ordinary share (15.0p).

Annual General Meeting The annual general meeting of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc will be held on Thursday, 12th January 1989 at 12 noon at the Caledonian Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh.

Form for Annual Report and Accounts, including fields for Name, Address, and Postcode.

BROADENING OUR GEOGRAPHIC HORIZONS

The acquisition of Citizens Financial Group in the USA and our alliance with Banco Santander Group of Spain will broaden our geographic horizons dramatically and strengthen our position as an international financial services group.

WE CAN BEST ACHIEVE REWARDS AS A GROUP

Our subsidiary divisions operate with a substantial degree of autonomy with the Group board harnessing their talents and channelling them towards overall strategic objectives.

PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH

Record profits before taxation of £309.2 million were achieved, an increase of 57% on last year. Earnings per share are at an all-time high of 67.1p and 120% greater than four years ago.

DIVIDENDS

The directors recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 9.7p, giving a total for the year of 15.0p per share (1987 - 12.7p). This represents an increase of 18% over the previous year and reflects our board's policy that our shareholders should continue to benefit from the Group's achievements.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

The world economy has grown well in what could have been a

Japanese Government 6% Sterling Loan 1983/88. Includes details of the loan and contact information for The Bank of Tokyo, Ltd.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues for various companies like Apollo Metals, BMS, etc.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Resilient showing

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 12. Dealings end December 23. Contango day December 28. Settlement day January 9.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (na) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 25)

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	VPI GP	Paper, Print, Adv	...
2	Ryl Rk Sor (na)	Banks, Discount	...
3	GEK (na)	Electronics	...
4	Erli	Building, Roads	...
5	Unimor (na)	Oil, Gas	...
6	Hambro	Banks, Discount	...
7	Broad PLC	Building, Roads	...
8	Coedex Gty	Building, Roads	...
9	BSS Group	Industrials A-D	...
10	Coleman	Industrials A-D	...
11	Century	Oil, Gas	...
12	De La Rue	Industrials A-D	...
13	Micro Focus	Electronics	...
14	Bardays (na)	Banks, Discount	...
15	Midsummer	Leisure	...
16	Whitson	Industrials S-Z	...
17	Time Products	Duopoly, Monopoly	...
18	Higgs & Hill	Building, Roads	...
19	Castle Wilson (na)	Electronics	...
20	Elliot (B)	Industrials E-K	...
21	Orpen Oil	Oil, Gas	...
22	Megat	Industrials L-R	...
23	Freemantle	Industrials E-K	...
24	West & Country	Property	...
25	Beale (na)	Textiles	...
26	Noble & Lund	Industrials L-R	...
27	Hoskyns Gp	Electronics	...
28	Goring Kerr	Industrials E-K	...
29	Jones & Shipman	Industrials E-K	...
30	IMF Group (na)	Industrials L-R	...
31	Brocham (na)	Industrials A-D	...
32	Brocham (na)	Industrials A-D	...
33	Ntha Foods (na)	Foods	...
34	Allied Irish	Banks, Discount	...
35	Admiral Comp	Electronics	...
36	Eng China City (na)	Industrials E-K	...
37	Haden MacLellan	Industrials E-K	...
38	Adsonne	Newspapers, Pub	...
39	Wiggins	Building, Roads	...
40	Power Corp	Property	...
41	Hay (Norman)	Industrials E-K	...
42	Int Bus Comm	Newspapers, Pub	...
43	Victoria Finance	Finance	...
44	MT. Hope	Industrials L-R	...

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

BRITISH FUNDS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

UNDATED

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

INDEX-LINKED

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

BREWERIES

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

BUILDING, ROADS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

FINANCE, LAND

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

FOODS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

DRAPERY, STORES

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

HOTELS, CATERERS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

BREWERIES

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

BUILDING, ROADS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

FINANCE, LAND

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

FOODS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

DRAPERY, STORES

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

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1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

INDUSTRIALS A-D

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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

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DRAPERY, STORES

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

HOTELS, CATERERS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

BREWERIES

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

BUILDING, ROADS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

FINANCE, LAND

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

FOODS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

DRAPERY, STORES

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

HOTELS, CATERERS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000
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ACCUMULATOR £52,000
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Claimants should ring 0254-53272

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

PROPERTY

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

SHIPPING

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

SHOES, LEATHER

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

TEXTILES

1000	High	Low	Back	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information, including columns for 'Unit Trust Name', 'Bid', 'Offer', 'Change', and 'YTD'. It lists numerous unit trusts such as 'ARNEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS', 'BANKERS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS', and 'GENERAL INVESTMENT MANAGERS'.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for 'Company', 'Bid', 'Offer', 'Change', and 'YTD'. Includes entries like 'A. & C. Investments', 'A. & C. Investments', and 'A. & C. Investments'.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates for various currencies including Sterling, Dollar, and others. Includes sub-sections for 'STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES' and 'OTHER STERLING RATES'.

MONEY MARKETS

Table of money market rates, including 'EURO MONEY DEPOSITS' and 'GOLD' rates.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for 'Trust Name', 'Bid', 'Offer', 'Change', and 'YTD'. Lists trusts like 'ARNEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS' and 'BANKERS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS'.

THIRD MARKET

Table of third market trading data, including 'LONDON FOX' and 'LONDON METAL EXCHANGE'.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices for various goods like 'WHEAT', 'SOYABEAN', and 'CORN'.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures prices, including 'FT-SE 100', 'Three Month Sterling', and 'Three Month Eurodollar'.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London metal exchange prices for various metals like 'COPPER', 'ZINC', and 'LEAD'.

Vertical advertisements on the right margin, including 'APPO...', 'ENG...', 'only com...', and 'EUROP SALES & M. MANA...'.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

December 15, 1988

A building society chief makes a call for expertise and knowledge to be respected as the qualities of an executive

The range of financial products and services available from your local building society has changed out of all recognition during the past few years. But the organization itself is probably much the same as it has been for decades, and therein lies a problem. By accident or design, the management structures of many societies reflect their past corporate objectives and desired management style. They tend to be hierarchical, even monolithic, with a long chain from top to bottom, and with the emphasis on financial control and audit.

Power and authority come from position in the hierarchy, rather than from knowledge and expertise, and management systems tend to serve internal rather than customer needs.

The result is an organization that relies heavily on precedent and encourages conservatism and to which managers are encouraged to look up and think about how the boss would deal with particular issues, rather than dealing with them themselves. Decision-making is slow, because decisions tend



Jeremy del Strother: message
to float upwards. Administration and control become higher-status activities than customer liaison and service.

Do these characteristics reflect societies' new business objectives in the deregulated financial service market? Not at all. What societies need now is to be innovative, flexible, agile and

Finance with a fresh face

orientated towards the customer — the power culture of the past simply will not work in the society of the future.

To a certain extent, this is already happening. My own society, Nationwide Anglia, is already well down the road, with managers taking an increasing responsibility for the profitability and development of their own sections and being encouraged to follow up their own initiatives.

The introduction of market-led product development is also making a real difference. But it is not until the message reaches the troops that changes really start to happen. It is a long process, and it starts with getting the right recruits.

Societies have traditionally relied on school- and college-leavers for the bulk of their manpower. But the number of leavers is expected to fall dramatically during the next few years, and we

have to start looking elsewhere. Part-time and mature workers — mainly women who have interrupted a career to raise a family — could form a large part of this new workforce.

But the largest untapped source is simply men. Careers advisers in schools and colleges do not seem to see men as a natural fit for front-line branch staff vacancies and there is a preconception, inside and outside the building society industry, that these jobs are not appropriate for men — something that we need to try to break down.

When you have the staff, you need to keep them. To recruit and keep the best people purely through salary is likely to prove very expensive indeed. True, the best have to be rewarded, and the rewards have to be high. But well thought-out training and personal development, giving the individual the opportunity to advance in

a rewarding direction within the same organization, are an equally important part of any employment package.

This is even more important now that building societies are developing into more complex and sophisticated organizations. Inevitably they are turning the rather narrow building society manager of the past into a highly marketable commodity, very attractive to competitors inside and outside the building society field.

employee per year — that is certainly what happens at Nationwide Anglia. As to the rest, there is a strong feeling in human resources development circles that if training managers are short of funds, then they have not adequately demonstrated the cost-benefit equation, and they have only themselves to blame.

Many societies do already provide facilities and a structure for personal development, including financial support. A crucial factor that is often missing, however, is management commitment to the process. It is crucial because a key element for success is motivation. Individual aspirations are not enough. They have to be supported and encouraged at all levels by managers who take the development of their subordinates seriously.

The aim has to be to reduce hierarchies and make links across

the organization, perhaps by using dual reporting lines. Managers need to be educated to accept unclear relationships, frequent change and uncertainty. They need to accept, even welcome, the reduced status of the power barons as knowledge and expertise rather than tradition and length of service become the source of authority.

It is tempting to say that the ultimate winner in all this will be the customer. And to a very large extent that is true. But it is the organization that takes these lessons on board and really makes them work that will attract and keep the business. If building societies are serious about their aspirations to lead the personal finance field, then that is a lesson they will have to learn, the sooner the better.

Jeremy del Strother is deputy general manager of the Nationwide Anglia Building Society.

APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481 — APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481

With more than £50m at stake each time we launch a satellite, it's hardly surprising we are thorough. But it's not just thoroughness and attention to detail that have made us Europe's largest space contractor. We've built our reputation on a total commitment to engineering excellence — the application of individual skills to the design of some of the most sophisticated, high-tech hardware in the world.

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Details of the Conditions of Service for the post may be requested from:

The General Secretary (KI)
The Arthritis & Rheumatism Council for Research
41 Eagle Street
London
WC1R 4AR

A detailed CV is to be submitted to Eagle Street no later than Monday, 9th January, 1989.

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Tel: 01-486 2887. After hours: 01-487 4258. Fax: 01-535-0522
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The appointment is urgent and it is expected that the appointee will be expected to take up the position very early in the New Year. A one year married status contract with taxfree UK paid salary, local salary, car, accommodation, flights etc., will be offered.

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Regency Resources
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Sussex BN7 1XX
Tel: Lewes (0273) 474666 (Agy)
Fax: Lewes (0273) 478032

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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EICEDE

This is a superb opportunity for an entrepreneurial Sales Manager to play a pivotal role in the development of profitable business for Eicece GmbH. The company designs, manufactures and supports a range of CAD/CAM systems for the construction and graphic design of packaging, and for die-making equipment. It has achieved outstanding growth through planned capital investment in a highly successful international marketing strategy. Operating from the existing Stevenage office, you will be responsible to the MD in Germany for carrying out market research, initiating business with carton and corrugated board manufacturing and die makers, and for providing a first-class customer support service. Probably aged over 35, first and foremost you

must be able to point to a successful record of selling or marketing capital goods, to the packaging industry, over at least a 5-year period. An engineering background coupled with experience as a packaging designer or user of CAD/CAM equipment would be particularly useful. Self-motivation, mobility, analytical skills, and a capacity for sustained hard work are prerequisites for success in a difficult environment. The negotiable remuneration package includes a fully-expensed quality car, BUPA and full relocation expenses where appropriate. For further information, contact Dr Rodney Meaburn, or to apply send your cv to him quoting Ref: 2838/RSM/TT, PA Personnel Services, Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE. Tel: 01-235 6060.

Marketing and Sales
Manager

For a major new development
in electronic business products
Northern Home Counties
£24,000-£28,000
+ car + benefits

One of the year's most exciting breakthroughs in business computing has been made by this long-established \$8 billion Fortune 500 multinational. This corporation is already a world-leading name in semiconductors, applied electronics and consumer products. It has always led where others have followed and has a strong and autonomous presence in Europe. The UK company is about to launch an exciting new solution-based product which has already made a tremendous impact in the USA and Europe and is poised to take a huge share of a niche market. This is a greenfield opportunity within a major company that will appeal to a truly enterprising man or woman with the commercial acumen and intellect to understand customer requirements, prepare a business plan, prospect for business and win orders. You will

get full technical support in preparing tailored solutions to match your clients' needs. Probably in your late 20s or early 30s, you must be able to demonstrate an existing track record of commercial success, working independently and selling business-to-business products in a competitive environment at board level. Your record of achievement should also show the development and implementation of a business plan through creative marketing and promotional activities. If you are ready to plot the success path for a new product, achieve your targets and advance your career within a major multinational, send your comprehensive and relevant cv to Stephen Newman, Ref: 2850/SN/TT, PA Personnel Services, Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE.

Marketing and Sales
Manager

Scotland
negotiable salary

Our client, Tairbert Fine Foods Limited Scotland, is a recently established independent company involved in the processing and marketing of salmon and other quality Scottish fish products in both the domestic and export markets. Based at Millmill Park in Fife, Scotland, the company distributes its products through a growing network of major UK retailers and an overseas agent. Reporting to the Managing Director, the Marketing and Sales Manager will be responsible for sales and product management aimed at developing the company's present customer base at the quality and of the food market. The position presents a challenging opportunity to develop your career in marketing and sales as a senior member of a small, enthusiastic and professional management team in a high-growth business. Promotion prospects to director level are excellent.

You will be educated to degree level in a relevant discipline and will have had a sound training and experience in consumer marketing and product management in an fmcg environment, a thorough knowledge of market planning, and practical experience in negotiating with major retailers. You will also be able to demonstrate sound commercial judgement and experience in a senior management role. Fluency in at least one European language would be an advantage. In return, you will receive an attractive compensation and benefits package together with an excellent opportunity for career progression with increasing authority and responsibility. To apply, please send a detailed cv to W G Edgar, or telephone his secretary for an application form, quoting Ref: WGE/2852/TT, at PA Personnel Services, Fitzpatrick House, 14/18 Cadogan Street, Glasgow G2 6QP. Tel: 041-221 3954.

DIVISIONAL ENGINEERING MANAGER

Aberdeen Excellent salary + quality car

Hamilton Brothers Oil and Gas Limited has been established in the North Sea since the early 1970s. The company has a strong reputation for innovative thinking and cost-effective operations, particularly drilling and production. Currently operating six oil and gas fields and with two further fields having recently received government approval for development, Hamilton Brothers is expanding its North Sea operations.

The Engineering Manager will be responsible for co-ordinating all engineering activities, ensuring that maximum efficiency is achieved through the most advanced and innovative techniques. This is an extremely varied role, requiring a broad overview of the engineering work as well as detailed knowledge of specific projects.

Your responsibilities will include full engineering support to our drilling programme, utilising advanced techniques in order to achieve objectives of minimum drilling cost. You will also assist in maximising oil and gas output by the use of sound engineering solutions to complex production problems. Another important area of responsibility is quality control and certification since these activities are crucial to maintaining

production and achieving the company's objectives. Meeting timescales is absolutely essential. Ambitious and innovative, your strong motivational and leadership skills will be essential in setting priorities and increasing performance. You'll need a range of skills to succeed: planning and analytical flair as well as problem-solving ability. It is also important that you can gain the respect of both management and staff.

A relevant degree, preferably in Petroleum, Chemical or Mechanical Engineering, should be backed up by at least 15 years' oilfield experience, mostly of senior level in the operating division of a major offshore oil and gas producer, preferably in the North Sea.

This is an outstanding opportunity to join a successful company at a vital time in its development. The salary, which reflects the importance of this position, is supported by a range of excellent benefits including a quality car, pension scheme and private medical insurance.

Please write with full cv to Matt Wright, Hamilton Brothers Oil and Gas Limited, Devonshire House, Mayfair Place, London W1X 6AQ.



Hamilton Brothers Oil and Gas Limited

chamtek

ADHESIVES SALESPERSON LONDON/SE
ATTRACTIVE SALARY + CAR + COMMISSION

Chamtek Adhesives Division, a member of the multinational Chamberlain Phipps Plc, leading manufacturers of adhesives, sealants, coatings, etc, is seeking to recruit an ambitious, hard working salesperson to expand its business in the above area.

The successful applicant will be of smart appearance, good educational background and preferably in the age range 25 to 45 years. Although previous experience of sales and/or the adhesives surface coatings industry would be advantageous this is not an essential requirement since full training will be provided.

A competitive salary package is offered, together with choice of company car, commission scheme, private medical insurance and other benefits one would expect from employment with a large international group.

Applicants are invited to writing or by telephone and should be referred in the first instance to:

Mrs. S. Chilton, CHAMTEK LIMITED, ADHESIVES DIVISION,
Newburn Bridge Road, Blaydon on Tyne, Tyne & Wear. NE21 4SQ



Telephone: (091) 414 2715

JAPANESE CONNECTIONS

GENERAL AFFAIRS MANAGER
20k PLUS BENEFITS

An International Finance Co urgently require a General Affairs Manager. Aged up to 40 you would be responsible for 3 clerical staff, and your job details include: Recruitment, P.A.Y.E. and Benefits control, and basic Accounting (pre-cash day). This position is seen as a step up the management ladder for an ambitious responsible person with at least 18 months experience in a general office environment.

ASSISTANT MANAGER PERSONNEL
20k PLUS BENEFITS

A large Airline require an assistant manager personnel to attend to accounts and admin and to establish company conditions etc.

GENERAL AFFAIRS PERSONNEL
SALARY NEG PLUS BENEFITS

A major stockbroker requires a general affairs personnel officer. Experience in finance companies preferred.

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT
(PART-QUALIFIED) 16k PLUS BENEFITS

A major department store newly opened in W1 urgently requires a Management Accountant. Ideally with experience in Retail Accounting and Computer (IBM 502) literate.

PHONE DAVID HILL AT J.A.C. ON 796 3132.

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY FOOTBALL BOARD TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

required to manage the second Rugby World Cup to be held throughout October 1991 in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and France.

Write for further details to the International Rugby Football Board, 180 Whitson Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 7RE or telephone 01 891 048 before 22nd December 1988.

ESTIMATOR

Salary c.£13,000

Responsible for handling estimating and quotation presentation.

Essential qualities are a good knowledge of computers backed by estimating experience and the ability to make technical presentations to clients. A basic knowledge of the roof industry would be beneficial but not essential.

Please phone 01-961 7725 ext. 41 or send CV's to: Mr. A. Reynolds, S.S.Q. Ltd, The Spanish House, 301 Elveden Road, London NW10 7SS.

Maine-Tucker
Recruitment Consultants

TALENTED ADMINISTRATOR?
£15,000 + Monthly bonus!

This is a most unusual opportunity for a bright and practical Administrator, looking for real prospects (financial and career) to turn their hand to all sorts of different things whilst managing a wonderfully busy and professional office. You must definitely have Accounting experience - including Profit and Loss, P.A.Y.E, Balancing books and Credit Control - and be able to type your own correspondence. You will also be asked to take on very interesting one-off projects, for example, finding a new office in Manchester and setting up all the administrative systems. You are in a position of total trust and your judgement in all matters must therefore be balanced, astute and confidential. There will also be at least one junior assisting you. Computer Literacy a real plus - but training will be given. A very steady, established, successful well Company with a stunning future of its own and this could well be the chance you have been waiting for. If you are over 25, call Deborah Lee for a more detailed discussion.

50 Pall Mall St. London SW1Y 5LB Telephone: 01-925 0548

THE BREWERS' SOCIETY EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY

The Brewers' Society is the national trade association for the brewing industry. It carries a wide range of representational and advisory functions for the industry, and has a headquarters staff of around fifty. The Society has eleven specialist departments, whose work is supervised by the Director and the Secretary of the Society.

A vacancy will arise in 1989 for a successor to the Society's Employment Secretary, who is head of the Employment Department. The duties of this post include servicing and advising the Society's Employment Committee and its sub-committees and advising Member Companies and Regional Associations.

Candidates must have appropriate professional qualifications and a sound knowledge of current practice and law (UK and EEC) relating to employment, industrial relations, health and safety, training and trade union matters. Ideally they will have experience in the working of trade associations. The ability to communicate at all levels and to act as the Society's representative on various external bodies is essential.

Salary £20,000/£22,000. Benefits include 2½% contributory pension scheme, free life cover, permanent health insurance, BUPA and a company car.

Please write in confidence, enclosing a full CV, to:

Mrs R M Donovan
Personnel Officer
The Brewers' Society
42 Portman Square
London
W1H 0BB

THE RTZ
Recruitment Consultant

£16,000-£20,000 Incl.

We are looking for a new Consultant to join our tremendously successful team in the West End of London. You should be in your early to mid 20s with a sales personality and be looking for a challenge that will stretch your career horizons. Recruitment experience is not essential but sales flair is a must! Excellent salary + commission package. Contract Margaret Bray or Colin Muth on 01 628-4343.

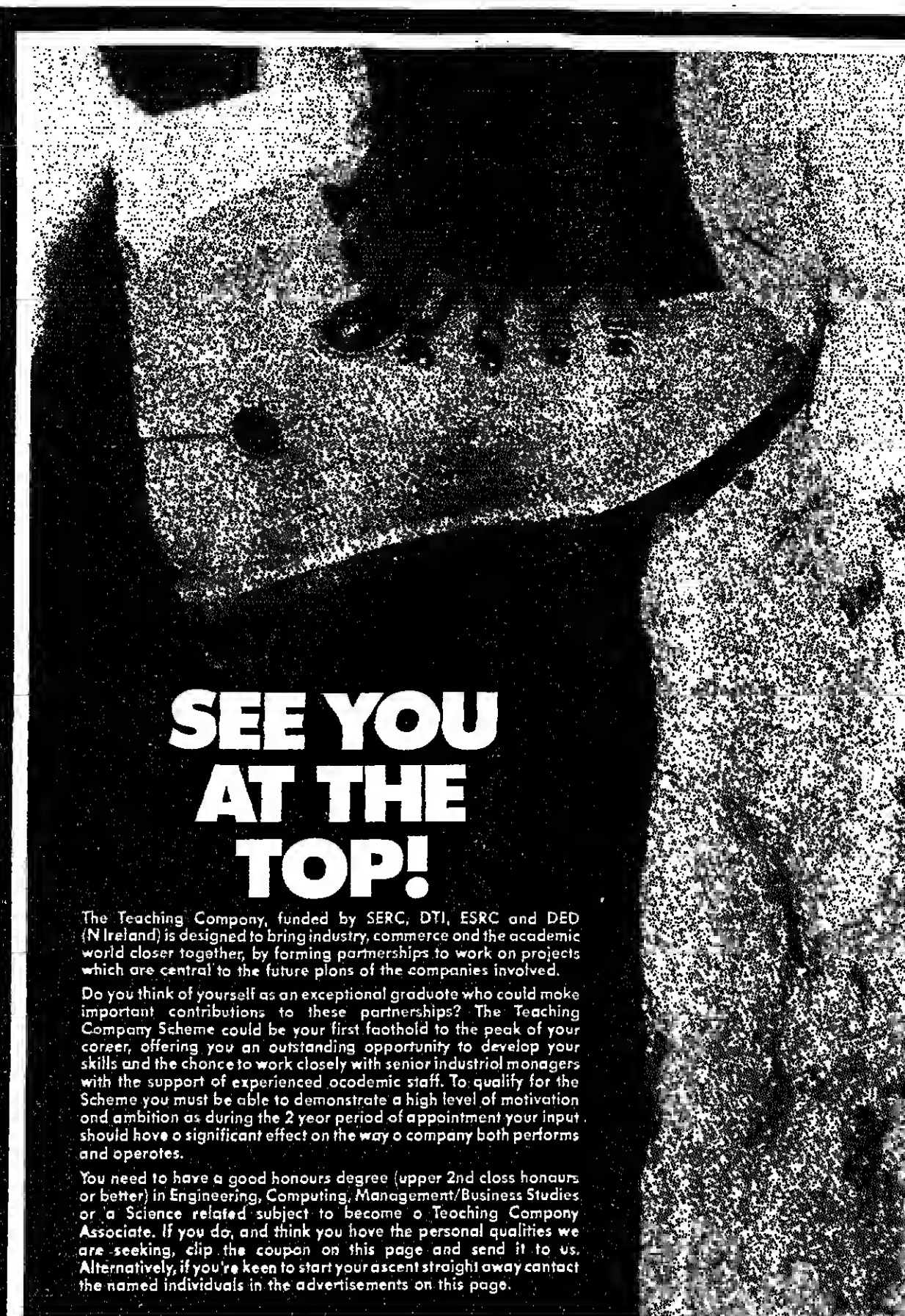
RTZ RECRUITMENT 112 HANOVER STREET, LONDON W1R 0HF TELEPHONE: 01-628 4343

SEE AT T

HELP MANUE

GRA D

SOFTWARE MECHANICAL ELECTRICAL



SEE YOU AT THE TOP!

The Teaching Company, funded by SERC, DTI, ESRC and DED (NIreland) is designed to bring industry, commerce and the academic world closer together, by forming partnerships to work on projects which are central to the future plans of the companies involved.

Do you think of yourself as an exceptional graduate who could make important contributions to these partnerships? The Teaching Company Scheme could be your first foothold to the peak of your career, offering you an outstanding opportunity to develop your skills and the chance to work closely with senior industrial managers with the support of experienced academic staff. To qualify for the Scheme you must be able to demonstrate a high level of motivation and ambition as during the 2 year period of appointment your input should have a significant effect on the way a company both performs and operates.

You need to have a good honours degree (upper 2nd class honours or better) in Engineering, Computing, Management/Business Studies or a Science related subject to become a Teaching Company Associate. If you do, and think you have the personal qualities we are seeking, clip the coupon on this page and send it to us. Alternatively, if you're keen to start your ascent straight away contact the named individuals in the advertisements on this page.

Jacky McMillan
Teaching Company Directorate,
Sudbury House
London Road, Faringdon
Oxon, SN7 8AA
Tel: (0367) 22822

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____
TEL: (Home) _____
(Work) _____

Reference number T12/88

LEE STEEL STRIP LTD PROJECT ENGINEERS

Lee Steel Strip Ltd, a Lee Group Company and the leading primary owned UK manufacturer of precision cold rolled stainless and special carbon steel strip, has joined with the Department of Metals and Materials Engineering of Sheffield City Polytechnic in an SERC/DTI Teaching Company Programme to develop the technology of fast moving metal strip.

We are looking for two bright young graduates with good honours degrees in Engineering, Metallurgy or Materials, with a minimum of 2 years industrial experience and preferably computer literate.

The work involves the study of modern cold rolling practices and the development of control systems to improve strip flatness with a view to the use of advanced instrumentation and computer aided methods. It is a company based position.

The appointments are for two years duration with excellent potential for career progression. A five figure salary will be paid.

Informal enquiries may be made to: Dr R A E Hooper, Arthur Lee and Sons, plc. (Tel: 0742-437272).
OR Dr R P Stratton, Department of Metals and Materials Engineering, Sheffield City Polytechnic, (Tel: 0742-720911).

Application forms from the Personnel Department, Sheffield City Polytechnic, Mallocks House, Fitzalan Square, SHEFFIELD, S1 2BB. (Tel: 0742-720911 Ext.2955).

Please quote reference R2088.

ICI Chemicals & Polymers

ICI Chemicals & Polymers Limited and the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne have jointly developed a Teaching Company Scheme in Statistical Process Control (SPC) of chemicals manufacture.

Applications are invited for the post of Teaching Company Associate (TCA) to be based at a production site in the north east of England.

Although formerly employed by the University, the TCA will spend 90% of the time working with the plant operating team to implement SPC as part of the local Quality Improvement Process. Appropriate training will be provided. The TCA will be eligible to apply for part-time higher degree registration.

Suitable candidates will be aged 28 or less with a good degree in engineering or mathematics and a strong interest in the practical application of statistics in an industrial environment.

The post is for a two year contract. Remuneration is negotiable and competitive with industrial graduate rates. Please send a CV plus the names of two referees (who will not be approached at this stage) to: Professor G B Whithell, Department of Statistics, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 7RL.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER Ohmeda

WE HAVE IMMEDIATE VACANCIES FOR:

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING ASSOCIATE. Reference UM88/31
For product development of anaesthetic breathing systems, design and evaluation of alternative patient breathing apparatus to improve patient safety and care during anaesthesia.

QUALIFICATIONS: Mechanical engineering degree with 2 years post graduate experience.

CLINICAL EVALUATION ASSOCIATE. Reference UM88/32
For product development of anaesthetic breathing systems, clinical and laboratory testing of new patient circuit designs, to assure clinical acceptance and determine performance of patient breathing apparatus during anaesthesia.

QUALIFICATIONS: Engineering or science degree with two medical experience being a distinct advantage.

These positions are in conjunction with the recently approved Teaching Company Scheme through Manchester University's Department of Anaesthesia, specialising in application of Physics and Engineering to anaesthetic systems.

Manchester University has the largest medical school in the UK, with a strong commitment to research and development of new medical therapies and equipment. The University is prepared to offer its resources in support of new product development on anaesthesia breathing systems through OHMEDA as an industrial partner.

OHMEDA, the world leaders in the sophisticated field of anaesthesia equipment are committed to research, development, and business expansion. Our purpose built factory, on an individual prestige parkland site at the edge of the Yorkshire Dales is probably the most sophisticated of its kind in the world and, the workforce needed to keep OHMEDA at the top is unmatched.

Interviews will be held during the week commencing 9th January 1989. Please write or ring for an application form quoting the appropriate reference.

OHMEDA is an equal opportunity employer.
Personnel Department, OHMEDA, Station Road, Sinton, West Yorkshire, BD20 9RR. Telephone: 0535 - 58016

DOC HEALTH CARE

NELP MANUFACTURING MANAGEMENT
NORTH EAST LONDON POLYTECHNIC Associate c £10,500 p.a.

Stewarts & Lloyds Plastics

Stewarts & Lloyds Plastics, one of Europe's leading manufacturers of polyethylene pipe systems, has formed a Teaching Company with North East London Polytechnic.

This new Company has been formed to enable young graduates to learn by experience, working on demanding tasks with commercial, social and time constraints alongside company and academic staff.

Applicants will need a Production or Mechanical Engineering or Polymer Technology background and degree with an aptitude for development as well as the application of new technology and systems.

The successful candidates will be offered posts as Associates of the Teaching Company and will be based at the Stewarts & Lloyds factory at Huntingdon. The initial contract will be for a term of two years with the possibility of joining the Company on a permanent basis at the end of that period. Opportunity to register for a higher degree will be available to suitable candidates.

If you have a good degree or expect to get one this year and would like to participate in this exciting new venture please contact:-
Mr. R.P. Higgins, Personnel Manager,
Tel. No. (0480) 52121
Don Thomas, North East London Polytechnic, Tel. No. 01-590-7732

ARUP Earthquake Engineering

The Ove Arup Partnership and the Earthquake Engineering Research Centre of Bristol University, Department of Civil Engineering, offer a 2 year appointment in earthquake engineering. The objective of the appointment is to carry out a planned programme of validation exercises of dynamic structural analysis software using results from the new earthquake simulator at Bristol and to explore the ability of the simulator to resolve design issues. There will also be the opportunity to be involved in related project work within the Partnership.

This exciting opportunity to work with a leading firm of international consultants in the forefront of structural design and with a university department having unique dynamic research facilities in the UK, is open to graduates in their early to mid 20's with at least an upper second class degree, and preferably with some experience in the general area of structural dynamics.

The successful candidate, whilst being employed by the University, will be working principally at the offices of the Ove Arup Partnership, at an industrial salary commensurate with age and experience.

The appointment could lead to an MSc degree and at the end of the 2 years employment with the Ove Arup Partnership.

Applicants are invited to write, giving full details of their qualifications and experience, to Ian Patterson, Personnel Director,
OVE ARUP PARTNERSHIP
13 Fitzroy Street, London, W1P 6HQ

Caradon Twyford's Limited

CARADON TWYFORDS LIMITED in association with STAFFORDSHIRE POLYTECHNIC

THREE exciting opportunities for technology graduates to play a leading role in the application of advanced CAD/CAM systems through involvement in a Teaching Company Scheme.

Caradon Twyford's has a worldwide reputation for the design and manufacture of quality bathroom products. To enhance further its position as a market leader the company wishes to increase its design and development facilities through the use of advanced CAD/CAM technology.

The Mechanical and Computer Aided Engineering Department of Staffordshire Polytechnic offers courses for post-graduates in mechanical engineering. The department has an excellent reputation in all areas of advanced technology plus the ability to work closely with local industry.

To achieve its objectives of increasing design availability and reducing lead times, the Company wish to appoint THREE project leaders in the following areas:

1. Development of advanced computer-aided modelling methods for aesthetic design.
2. Development of techniques for detailed product design using a 3D CAD system.
3. Development of a CAD/CAM system for the manufacture of models, moulds and tooling for bathroom products.

If you see yourself as a creative individual with a determination to progress and have the ability to work in a high technology environment, then why not join the team? Excellent opportunities exist for future employment.

Candidates should possess a good honours degree in engineering and preferably have experience in managing or using a CAD system. The salaries offered will be in accordance with qualifications and experience.

For further information, apply to Personnel Services, Staffordshire Polytechnic, College Road, Stoke on Trent, ST4 2DE. Phone (0782) 744531 Ext. 5211. Alternatively, phone Dr. Malcolm Butler on 0785 62331. Ext. 5325 for an informal discussion on how you could become involved in this major project.

GRADUATES

Would you like to be part of an exciting new collaboration between a major UK group of companies and three academic institutions? Eastlight Ltd, a member of Oxflex Group Holdings plc, is a major manufacturer of stationary products and office equipment. The Company currently has two first-class career opportunities, located in the North West, for engineering or applied science graduates to work in the areas of Machine Reliability and Automated Handling.

These positions are company-based career opportunities for ambitious graduates who will be expected to play a key role in the implementation of new manufacturing technology within the Company. They are two-year appointments with excellent prospects of subsequent employment within the Group. Successful candidates will enjoy the benefits of specific technical training and a management development programme.

If you feel you have the ability and potential to accept the responsibilities required of these positions then please send your CV to Karen Townsend, Department of Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering, University of Salford, Salford M5 4WT, or telephone 061-736-5843 Ext 7482/7465 for further details.

UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD EASTLIGHT

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MANUFACTURING MANAGEMENT AND PROJECT ENGINEERING

Following rapid expansion JCB Transmissions are seeking good honours graduates to undertake major projects in this world class manufacturing company. It is intended that promotion to management will follow successful completion of projects which include:

- Integration of existing and planned FMS
- Development of a JIT strategy for material flow
- Development of a Tool Management System
- Manufacturing diagnostics

Applicants should have an engineering or science background and a high degree of enthusiasm and personal motivation. As projects are computer-based, experience or an interest in the use of computers within manufacture would be an advantage. There will be the opportunity to study for a higher degree.

Salaries and benefits are excellent.

Please write with brief career details to The Director of Staffing, Services, The University of Liverpool, P O Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX. For information, it is intended that promotion to management will follow successful completion of projects which include:
quoting reference number JCB/TCS.

JCB TRANSMISSIONS
The University of Liverpool

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS

A unique opportunity to embark on a rewarding career in engineering within a small company environment as an Associate under the SERC/DTI Teaching Company Scheme.

The company is engaged in providing custom designed computer controlled manufacturing systems using a modular automated approach. The Associates will be involved in the development of the control systems, mechanical manipulation and an advanced electronic power source for the next generation of equipment.

The successful candidates will work full time in the company but will be able to study for a postgraduate qualification at Cranfield Institute of Technology. The scheme provides for business training and a structured career development plan as well as the technical challenges involved in new product development.

The initial appointment is for two years and starting salaries will be around £11,000 depending on age and experience.

Candidates with a good first degree in an appropriate engineering or scientific discipline are invited to apply to Mr J Nornish, School of Industrial Science, Cranfield Institute of Technology, Cranfield, Beds. MK43 0AL.

SYNERGIC INTERACTIVE SYSTEMS
Cranfield

ENGINEERING GRADUATES

The Teaching Company. The fastest intelligent path to tomorrow's technological and management positions.

UMIST and Leyland DAF have completed several successful joint projects in the North West and are now seeking new Teaching Company Associates for further projects in the areas of Manufacturing Systems/Logistics, including JIT, CAP and Complexity Analysis.

For the Associate these positions offer you a unique chance to develop your technical and management skills, to further your post graduate education and to enhance your professional career and future prospects—significantly.

Working mainly in the company and partly at UMIST for two years you will enjoy the benefits of the resources, expertise, supervision and support of both organisations whilst taking responsibility for key projects in Advanced Manufacturing Technology.

For the successful Associate there is the opportunity to work for an MSc and to increase your career potential by an appointment in the Company.

You should be less than 28 years of age, possess a 2.1 degree in Engineering or a related subject, and preferably have a year or more of industrial experience.

To apply write with CV to: Dr Peter McNeill, Department of Mechanical Engineering, UMIST, PO Box 88, Manchester, M60 1OD. Telephone: 061-236 3311, Ext. 2833.

Leyland DAF UMIST

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

SYSTEMS ENGINEERS COMPUTER SCIENTISTS CONTROL ENGINEERS

Exciting opportunities with a world wide dimension

Dynacast International, part of the Coats Vyalis Group, are world leaders in the production of high precision diecast and moulded components.

We are embarking on a major programme to apply computer integrated manufacturing to all aspects of our operations both in the UK and overseas. To this end a Teaching Company Programme is being set up in conjunction with the Manufacturing Systems Engineering Group of the University of Warwick. This is an excellent opportunity for well qualified persons, under 29 years of age, with drive and enthusiasm to work at the forefront of technology.

Applications are invited from candidates who possess a good honours degree and one of the following qualifications:

- Systems/Computer Science (possibly post-graduate) plus significant experience in systems planning.
- Control/Instrumentation plus some experience in real-time data collection.

Based near Stratford-on-Avon, we offer attractive working conditions and location. The initial appointments will be with the University of Warwick but subsequent career development opportunities within Dynacast and the Coats Vyalis Group are excellent.

Please write in the first instance for an application form to The Personnel Office, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL. Telephone 0203 522827, quoting Ref 12/A/88/55 (please mark clearly on envelope).

These posts are initiated in pursuance of the DT/SERC Teaching Company Scheme.

DYNACAST
FRANCE - BRITAIN - CANADA - KOREA

ASSISTANT FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

WG2 £21,000 + CAR + PACKAGE

As a first move from the profession to commerce, this position offers unparalleled experience to a newly qualified ACA. Based in the UK office of a multi-national oil exploration company, there will be travel to Scandinavia and Europe on special projects in addition to leading up the financial and management accounting function. Excellent career progression is anticipated. Ref: CEN642.

For further information contact: Accountancy Personnel, 6-8 Glen House, Stag Place, Victoria SW1E 5AG. Tel: 01-828 7555.

CAREER INJECTION

West End £18,000

Demanding role within high investment fashion company thriving in a fast paced industry. Immediate responsibility developing systems and preparing both budget forecasts and management accounts to strict deadlines. Future financial controller prospects make this a major career step forward for an ambitious, responsible part-qualified accountant. Benefit from full study support and N.C.P.S. Ref: CM7234.

For further information contact: Accountancy Personnel, 14 Great Castle Street, Oxford Circus W1N 7AD. Tel: 01-580 9186.

Accountancy Personnel
Placing Accountants First

Hays

IT Consultancy
Strategic planning for improved business performance

London and Edinburgh Package to £40,000 + car

Making information technology an effective force in the definition and achievement of business objectives is the vital role of the Strategy and Planning Division within Computers and Telecommunications, part of the PA Consulting Group - Europe's largest technology and management consultancy.

Our range of prestigious blue-chip clients in commerce, government, industry, and the IT industry demand IT solutions that impact positively on their business performance.

Our success in devising carefully evaluated strategies and implementing practical plans for the long-term use of IT to achieve competitive advantage creates several opportunities for high-calibre IT professionals in these specialist areas:

- **Strategy Formulation**...creating attractive IT strategies and evaluating them against different future business scenarios, including mergers and acquisitions and reflecting specific industry trends.
- **Information Systems Planning**...building coherent application portfolios after fully examining the corporate implications.

Ideally in your late 20s to mid-30s with a good degree (possibly an MBA) and at least six years' experience, you could be a manager or technical specialist in one of the above areas and currently working with a major IT user, supplier or consultancy.

The environment is highly stimulating and rewarding: the negotiable remuneration package will reflect experience and qualifications, and excellent career prospects are linked to personal achievement.

Please send your cv, in confidence, to Linda Gordon, Ref: 12 156, PA Consulting Group, Computers and Telecommunications, Rochester House, 33 Greycoat Street, London SW1P 2QF.

PA is an equal opportunity employer

PA Computers and Telecommunications

MANAGING DIRECTOR
PLASTIC PACKAGING MATERIALS

Salary £40K +

Our client is a fast-growing, medium-sized Public Group with a number of subsidiaries manufacturing a range of packaging materials. A major subsidiary company, highly profitable, fast-growing, and operating in plastic packaging, requires a Managing Director. The Company has sales of around £10 million and 300 employees. The Group operates a highly decentralised management style and the Managing Director of the Company, reporting to the Group Chief Executive, has full responsibility for the achievement of agreed plans.

The successful candidate will be strongly motivated, experienced and keen to accept a truly high profile responsibility. Educated to degree level or equivalent, we are looking for extensive experience in the packaging industry, a good appreciation of plastics technology and proven general management skills. Direct experience of packaging development for the major supermarket groups would also be an important advantage. It is unlikely that candidates under 35 years of age will have the necessary experience to manage this rapidly developing business.

As a key Group appointment, salary is unlikely to be a limiting factor. Other conditions of employment including Executive Company car, Bonus Scheme, relocation package, etc., are fully competitive.

Applicants should write, together with a comprehensive C.V., to the address below, specifying any Company to whom the application should not be forwarded.

Dixon Wilson (Ref: AFS)
P.O. Box 900
Rotherwick House
3 Thomas More Street
London E1 9YX

Price Waterhouse

International Marketing Manager

C London

c£40,000 + Car

Price Waterhouse is one of the first truly transnational professional service organisations operating throughout the world. Recognising that an international market place demands global strategies, we have created a world management board to lead the development of our worldwide organisation. As part of the new structure, an international marketing support group has been formed in central London to enable us to take full advantage of the opportunities that a growing market and the increasing globalisation of business offers.

Reporting to the World Firm Marketing Partner, you will be involved in advising on all aspects of marketing with particular emphasis on international marketing strategy, research and support as well as corporate image and communications.

It is likely that you will be a graduate (ideally with an MBA) aged 30-40 with a proven

record in a high profile, service orientated environment. International experience of working at a senior level with multinational corporations is considered to be essential. Naturally your exceptional interpersonal qualities will play a significant part in building effective relationships both internally and externally. Considerable creative and analytical skills are prerequisites.

Career prospects are excellent and will be based entirely on your success in helping to create and support successful marketing initiatives. Salary is negotiable and includes a range of benefits that would normally be associated with an international firm.

Interested candidates should ring David Bodmer, who is acting for us, on (0753) 840858 or write to him at Michael Page Marketing, Windsor Bridge House, 1 Brocas Street, Eton, Berkshire SL4 6BW. Please quote reference MPM285.



MICHAEL PAGE MARKETING

Specialist Recruitment Consultants
Windsor, Birmingham & Leeds

Cranfield



TEACHING COMPANY

SENIOR CONSULTANT

Integrated Graduate Development Scheme

A part-time Senior Consultant is required to assist in the development and monitoring of this innovative and rapidly expanding scheme for post-employment education of industrial staff.

IGDS is administered nationally by the Teaching Company on behalf of the Science and Engineering Research Council. The post will therefore involve close liaison with HE institutions throughout the UK.

Applicants should be familiar with the industrial environment and the education and training needs of industrial students, have experience in academic course construction and assessment and be able to demonstrate an innovative approach to Higher Education.

The successful applicant will be expected to operate out of the Teaching Company offices located in Farnborough, Hampshire. The Teaching Company (part of the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, itself a Faculty of the Cranfield Institute of Technology) is sponsored by SERC and DTI and others.

Further details may be obtained from the Personnel Office (HQC) RMCS Shrivenham Wits SWS 6LA (0793) 785403/785421. Informal enquiries may be raised with the General Manager, TCS Tel (0357) 22822.

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Further particulars from David Burbridge, Deputy General Secretary, National Association of Headteachers, 1 Heath Square, Bolton Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1BL. Telephone 0444 458133.

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Further details from or CV to:

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HORIZONS

Queue here for your IT trainees for 1992

The explosion in information technology is producing its inevitable result - expanding companies looking in all directions for people with the essential operating skills.

It is an opinion backed up fully by all the available statistics. According to the National Computing Council: "The current perceived shortage of staff with IT skills in the UK 'user' community is of the order of 19,000."

Shortages are already causing problems, and these will be further exacerbated by increased demands caused by the single European market, and by the on-coming demographic trough, whereby the number of school-leavers between now and the mid-1990s will have fallen by 25 per cent.

systems analysts and programmers. Whereas the demand for software staff has continued to grow significantly, that for experienced electronics engineers showed little growth.

Clare Hogg points out that the growth in information technology will create a buyer's market for graduates

sources for staff and a shift in job emphasis towards "user support" is resulting in more arts graduates, especially those with business or communications skills, being taken on than ever before.

market can apply for postgraduate "conversion" courses in computer sciences, run by universities and polytechnics, usually taken up to MSc level, and lasting a year.

The demand, and the nature of the work, has led to some interesting advantages from the point of view of the graduate. Firstly, it enables the IT professional to be highly mobile. Quite a number of employees leaving IT jobs do so because their spouses are being

relocated, or simply out of a desire to travel while still earning a reasonable wage. The well-trained professional with the right specialization can get a job relatively easily almost anywhere in the world. Even work permit restrictions prevent less of a problem.

Pay is generous, and pressure is continually keeping it buoyant, especially among "users". Many larger companies (mostly in the IT services category) trying to attract ambitious graduates, and already paying competitive salaries, are vying also with each other to provide the best training

programmes. After increasing salaries, investment in training is the single most common response to the shortages. In addition, many employers are introducing more effective structures for developing career paths.

Frequently, small and medium-sized companies do not provide training for fear of poaching. The irony is that if training is not provided, employees are more likely to leave, particularly those who are seriously concerned with their careers, rather than purely motivated by money.

Many companies, do, however, offer training. A survey carried out by the Computing Services Industry Training Council earlier this year reported 13 companies which spent more than 5 per cent of their total salary bill on training.



Ken Rye

Choices not for the timid

What skills are employers in IT seeking? Steve Crowther is responsible for graduate recruitment at Logica. "We are looking for technical abilities and personal qualities. Personal qualities are very important since we are a particularly client-oriented company and do a lot of consultancy work."

"We need good communicators, both verbal and written; people who are self-motivated, since we don't have a lot of managers overseeing work; and, since there are no hierarchical layers of management in this company, we need people who are not status-orientated, who can work happily in a team."

The IT industry is a young industry, and employers are often very open-minded about who they recruit. Nevertheless, technical changes are happening all the time and adding new and demanding challenges.

Information: Anyone thinking of a career in Information Technology should get HIT 89, (Hobsons, £6.50 which outlines the careers open within IT, lists the courses available and IT employers and qualifications required. Costit produces Facts about the computing industry: exploring the possibilities of a career (Hobsons).

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SWIMMING: BRITISH OLYMPIAN HOPES A MORE RELAXED APPROACH WILL BRING SUCCESS IN THE FIRST WORLD CUP

Brownsdon sees the trivial side to a pursuit of victory

From Steven Downes, Toronto

At 22 years of age, Suki Brownsdon has reached the stage where she needs more out of swimming. "Why are you still in the sport?" Keith Brownsdon, her coach, asked when she telephoned on Saturday night to seek his opinion on whether she should accept the last-minute offer of a place on the England team for the first Fina World Cup meeting, starting here today. "You're in it to enjoy yourself and travel. Go," Bewley advised.



All smiles: Suki Brownsdon, experiencing a revival after the disappointment of Seoul

benefiting from all the work I've put in over the years. Also, it's a lot less pressured now. At Calgary, the team would be full of internationals, and there were always expectations. This winter, I just planned to swim well last weekend, and it worked. "That form could easily carry over into the next few days, when she will be one of 160 swimmers from nine nations competing in the World Cup - an event modelled on the international skiing and athletics grand prix. It is a small but select bunch of swimmers that includes the Olympic medal winners, Kristzina Egerszegi and Karolyi Gutter, of Hungary, and the European champion, Anders Holmertz, of Sweden.

Of greatest interest to Brownsdon in training yesterday was Allison Higson, of Canada. Higson dived into the Olympic pool in the 200 metres breaststroke final as world record-holder and favourite, only to emerge from the water without a medal or a record.

SPORTS LETTERS

Membership scheme unwelcome in Scotland

From Mr David Christie Sir, It appears that Mr Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, would like ultimately to extend the proposed football membership scheme to Scottish league clubs. Such a decision would be unnecessary and unwise for the following reasons.

Luton, would slow admittance further, surely a recipe for trouble. Many smaller clubs would be deprived of one vital source of income. Already small attendance would be reduced further because supporters would be deterred from purchasing cards that involve a large financial outlay before the season has started.

Ski plan did look ahead

From Mr A. Blackshaw Sir, I wonder if your reporter, Mr Iain Macleod, in describing the British Ski Federation as a "previously backward-thinking organization" is not being a little bit unfair?

Time to call a cricketing truce

From Mr Bruce Robert Miles Sir, Is it not time for cricket to declare peace? Non-cricket historians record the 'Thirty Years War' Cricket beats that hollow. It is 56 years since the Bodyline Barrage began here in Sydney and the battle still rages.

India in West Indies

West Indians with English counties and league clubs will miss nearly three weeks of the new season next spring because India's tour of the Caribbean does not end until early May (Richard Streeton writes). India will play Test matches, five other first-class games and five one-day internationals during their visit.

Disabled provision

From the Secretary of the Rugby Football Union Sir, Our publicity machinery is evidently less effective than we had thought. Mrs Eileen Peary has taken the Rugby Football Union to task (December 8) for failing to provide adequate facilities at Twickenham for the disabled in wheelchair.

Lacrosse's answer

From Mr J.H. Ekserdjian Sir, I have read the correspondence on the professional foul (November 24 and December 1) with some interest. If the footballing authorities were really intent upon removing the professional foul from the game then I would have thought the solution would be relatively simple if they were to operate a law which was applied in men's lacrosse.

Place of leagues

From Mr R. W. Jones Sir, Permit me to comment on Mr G. R. Thomas's letter about leagues in Welsh rugby (December 1). Accepting some, though by no means all, of his misgivings about the leagues, I seek to address misleading impressions he creates. These, I submit, arise either from over-zealous argument, or from specific local observations which find scant application beyond his immediate vicinity.

Refereeing lesson

From Mr R. W. F. Sampson Sir, I am very pleased to see that Rugby Correspondent, David Hands, twice praised the referee Mr Clive Norling (December 7 and 8) for his handling of the Oxford and Cambridge University match.

Overseas fillip

From Ms Sarah Knight Sir, Are you so afraid of exceeding that if England has insufficient "home-grown" top-class cricketers, surely there is no reason to object to a fillip from abroad?

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From Ms Sarah Knight Sir, Are you so afraid of exceeding that if England has insufficient "home-grown" top-class cricketers, surely there is no reason to object to a fillip from abroad?

THE OLYMPIA CHRISTMAS SHOW. Harvey Smith gives inside news and behind-the-scenes views on this popular London event in the equestrian calendar - the attractions, the competitors, the participants, plus a preview of the Young Rider Show Jumping competition. Plus Peggy Grayson's popular ponies column, racing, hunting, bloodstock, indoor show jumping, dressage, veterinary advice and up-to-date equestrian news.

SPORTING SLAVERY. From Dr Brenning James Sir, Stephen Hendry's comments (December 6) about being spoken to in the World Matchplay snooker tournament are, if anything, compounded by Denis Taylor's remarks about the financial reward. People working in boring jobs feel the greatest sympathy for those trapped into lengthy participation in even more boring sports.

CRICKET

England on target for final despite New Zealand loss

From Carol Salmon, Melbourne

England lost their second Shell Bicentennial women's World Cup match when they went down by five wickets to New Zealand here yesterday. Victory over The Netherlands tomorrow is essential if England are to take their place in the final on Sunday against Australia.

Few England players enhanced their reputations on a hot Melbourne day. Australia, however, revelled in the heat. The Netherlands for their fourth 250-plus deficit in seven matches. Ruth Buckstein completed her second century off the weary Dutch attack as Australia completed a 173-run win.

Qadir's repertoire used to full to halt Academy

Adelaide (Reuter) - Abdul Qadir, using his full range of attacking skills, took four for 73 yesterday to help Pakistan to a 67-run win over the Australian Cricket Academy, an institution offering scholarships to promising players. The 100-over game was the first proving ground for the Academy.

innings fell apart, mostly through three further run-outs. PAUL STANLEY: 388 for 9 (100 over) (S. Yousaf 102, Javed Miandad 57). AUSTRALIAN CRICKET ACADEMY: 67 (100 over). S. Yousaf 102, Javed Miandad 57.

St Albans victory questions system

St Albans qualified for the last-32 stage of the Royal Bank national indoor club championship after winning all three matches at Kelsey Kerridge Hall, Cambridge, on Tuesday night in a round-robin series with Cambridge City, Chelmsford, and Norfolk Wanderers.

Old Loughtonians shot into a 2-0 lead but at half-time Southgate led 5-3 and later 6-3 before Old Loughtonians levelled at 6-6. In the last three minutes, Southgate scored three quick goals to which Old Loughtonians replied once. In the earlier match, East Grinstead defeated Bromley 8-4. This was a fairly even contest until half-time after the resumption of play, Bromley could not contain a fierce East Grinstead onslaught led by Richard Leman, who scored seven of their eight goals.

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Pakistan increase England's sense of world isolation

By Richard Streeton

England's growing isolation in world cricket worsened yesterday when Pakistan announced that they did not wish to play them in the one-day tournament recently planned to take place in New Zealand during March.

Referring to the South African links of Gooch and other England players, a Pakistan cricket board statement issued in Karachi said that "playing against such a team is contrary to the Pakistan stand in various international forums".

The Pakistan statement stunned Test and County Cricket Board officials at Lord's. They pointed out that only a fortnight ago the Pakistanis had agreed to vary their New Zealand itinerary when the local board agreed to accommodate England there on a substitute tour, following the abandonment of England's visit to India.

Alan Smith, the chief executive of the TCCB, said last night that he would be approaching New Zealand officials as soon as possible.

"It is not possible to stick to the original programme, or revise it so that our visit can still include two Tests and a reasonable number of one-day matches, it simply may not be viable."

A senior Pakistan cricket official claimed later in Karachi that they had never had any contact with TCCB officials and had only agreed tentatively with New Zealand to participate in matches with England, with final confirmation to follow later.

As far as Pakistan were concerned, the suggested tournament had been deliberately kept secret for as long as possible while "we took soundings and tested reactions", he said.

"Once the New Zealand Foreign Minister launched his widely reported, scathing attacks on the England visit, there was no way that Pakistan would behave contrary to our known principals about apartheid and people with South African links."

It is understood that the final decision, that Pakistan should have no truck with the visiting England team, was taken on Monday by the Pakistan board president, Lt-Gen Ziauddin Ali Akbar Khan, who, as chairman of the Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority, also holds a senior Government appointment.

The new Pakistan Government, led by Benazir Bhutto, whose People's Pakistan Party are strongly anti-South Africa, were not directly involved but almost certainly applied pressure behind the scenes.

There has also been growing criticism in Pakistani newspapers and by politicians about Pakistan meeting England on their substitute tour.

The Pakistan board's official decision was conveyed tentatively with New Zealand Cricket Council by telex. It is believed the New Zealand authorities replied asking Pakistan to change their mind and that this reply was not answered.

Pakistan did stress to New Zealand, however, that they wished their own tour to New Zealand, which includes three Test matches and three one-day internationals, to take place as originally scheduled.

The same official, who disclosed that the Pakistan board president personally called off the tour, said he had been in touch with Intikhab Alam, the Pakistan team manager in Australia, where they are currently playing, and had been told that the Pakistan players had met and were against having fixtures with England.

"The Pakistan players were concerned at the various threats being made by apartheid protesters to disrupt the matches. Nobody needs reminding how the South African rugby players were treated there by demonstrators in 1981, with flour bombs dropped from aeroplanes and so on. It just would not have been worthwhile quite apart from the principals involved," he said.

For the England cricket authorities, this latest setback in their efforts to find some cricket for their beleaguered players is a grim reminder of the uncomfortable time facing them at the International Cricket Conference in London in January when the South African issue will be debated.

Attitudes both in Australia and New Zealand have hardened in recent weeks, and with the non-rugby nations already unanimous that there can be no compromise about South African links, Pakistan's latest action was entirely predictable. To many observers it was only surprising that it took so long to become known.

Already in the past few days it has become clear that England's matches in New Zealand, inevitably, will only generate unpleasantness and further ill-will.

Dick Cuthbert, the national treasurer of the New Zealand All Racist Toors organization, has been quoted as saying in Auckland that measures to disrupt England's visit would include demonstrations at cricket grounds, airports and hotels.

During matches extra cricket balls would be thrown onto the field to disrupt play and that mirrors would be flashed in the sun to dazzle batsmen.

In Delhi a group of Indian MPs have passed a resolution calling on members of the New Zealand parliament to apply pressure to get England's visit cancelled.

More cricket, page 40

Shapcott turns professional after cup triumph



Senan Shapcott, the driving force in the Curtis Cup victory over the United States, will turn professional in the New Year. Shapcott, aged 19, plans to make her first professional appearance on the European women's golf tour.

She played a leading role in Great Britain and Ireland's second successive victory over the United States at Royal St George's in June. She won three of her four matches in the 11-7 victory.

"My ambition is to become a champion in Europe and then the United States if I am good enough," Shapcott said. "Turning professional is the only way to improve and reach that level."

Shapcott and the other members of the Curtis Cup team, captained by Diane Bailey (above, from left) Vicky Bailey, Senan Shapcott, Linda Bayman, Diane Bailey, Liz Boatman, Jill Thorhill and Julie Wade, yesterday received their Women's Gopher of the Year awards, sponsored by Avia Watches.

One in the eye from Joe Public

By Steve Acton

The awards season is in full cry. Tonight the Sports Writers' Association of Great Britain will honour Sandy Lyle as its Sportsman of the Year. Last week Steve Davis was the hero when he won the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year award. Lyle was third in the BBC voting and Davis sixth in the writers' poll.

Therein lies a dichotomy, for in the public's eyes the BBC award is more prestigious than the SWA's. Should it perhaps be asked whether those of us who write about sport are at times out of touch with public thinking?

The result of the BBC poll engendered howls of disbelief, especially in Scotland. It was also a smack in the eye for all those - some of Britain's most venerated sports writers among them - who believe that snooker is an overgrown pub game and not worthy of mention in the same breath as "real sport".

The BBC award was voted for by thousands of viewers who troubled to fill in their Radio Times coupons. The BBC does not release voting figures "as a matter of policy" but a spokesman said: "Steve won by a long way."

Since the great snooker boom of the late Seventies and early Eighties, some pundits have waited, with almost indecent anticipation, for the snooker bubble to burst and for the Steve Davies and Jimmy Whites to allow the nation more regular sleeping habits.

Yet snooker has not gone away. With the arrival of a new hero in Stephen Hendry and the occasional rebirth of an old one, such as Doug Mounjoy, it has found a



Davis people's choice

steady plateau on which to exist in Britain and is rapidly growing in popularity throughout the world.

No wonder that other power groups, such as the International Billiards and Snooker Federation, are attempting to muscle in on the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association's virtual monopoly of the professional game. It is neither reasonable nor realistic to say that the public's television viewing habits are not a fair guide to which sports (or games) are "important".

If that is the case, why was so much attention given this summer to football's saga over who would televise the game and how much would they pay for the privilege?

Lyle's achievement in winning the United States Masters was magnificent. Yet the BBC's viewing figures, with the event being shown live, peaked at 5.3 million at 10.15 p.m. on the Sunday night and the average was nearer four million.

The world championship of snooker, won by Davis, attracted an average of 7.6 million viewers on the final day, a Monday, and during the Tennants United Kingdom snooker final on Sunday, November 27, the BBC had an average of six million viewers for the afternoon session while ITV attracted only a similar number for Newcastle United against Manchester United.

There should be no surprise that Davis won the BBC poll. He had been runner-up in 1981 and 1987 and third in 1984. He may be every gentleman's idea of "a real gentleman" but he is also revered as a sportsman and a credible sporting ambassador for Britain by millions of people.

Davis's win also squashed another myth. It showed that the British public do love winners, hard-faced or not, and not just those who take part.

It might also be said that other British sports folk might achieve a great deal more if they took as much care of their fitness and spent as many hours refining their skills as does Davis.

Cowdrey fined for critical remarks

By Ivo Tennant

The Disciplinary Committee of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) yesterday imposed a fine of £500 on Christopher Cowdrey for derogatory comments he made about the England selectors and management which were published in The Sun newspaper in September, shortly after he lost the England captaincy.

The TCCB does not permit a cricketer to make public statements, or more to the point, critical statements, without their consent or that of the player's county. At the beginning of each season, every player signs a declaration to the effect that he knows and understands all the regulations pertaining to playing first-class cricket. This is supported by the players' body, the Cricketers' Association.

Disciplinary Committee regulations are sometimes forgotten in off-guarded moments several months later. Cowdrey was cautioned by his county, Keot, but the TCCB clearly felt that was not sufficient punishment.

As fines go, it is not a particularly hefty one - Mike Gatting was fined £5,000 for being in breach of contract over the publication in his autobiography of his dispute with Shakoor Rana in Pakistan. That fine was the highest imposed by the TCCB, Chris Old having been fined £2,000 for a critical newspaper article in 1982.

However, the Disciplinary Committee will have taken into account the fact that Cowdrey was not paid for talking to The Sun. Gatting, on the other hand, will have made a very tidy sum out of his autobiography.

Cowdrey accepted he was guilty of a breach of contract and apologized to the TCCB. He would not comment after his hearing at Lord's yesterday.

The start of the match between MCC and the county champions, Worcestershire, at Lord's has been put back a day to Saturday, April 15.

Scotland centre banned for a week

By Alan Lorimer and Peter Bills

Scott Hastings, the Scotland centre and younger brother of Gavin Hastings, the full back, has been suspended for one week with effect from yesterday by the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) after playing in the Dubai International Sevens tournament last month without seeking its permission.

The SRU stated yesterday that a panel had been appointed by the general committee, which, after interviewing Hastings, ratified the SRU decision to impose the seven-day ban.

An SRU spokesman re-asserted its position: "All players and indeed teams playing abroad and vice versa must seek permission from both the unions involved for all games."

Yesterday the SRU secretary, Bill Hogg, said that he had circulated letters to all Scottish clubs at the beginning of this season advising them of this matter and adding that the SRU was only following international board guidelines which, among other disciplines, insist that players give "confirmation that there is no financial consideration" if they are playing abroad.

Hogg also stated that the SRU would generally refuse permission for individuals to play abroad if it meant missing a national league match and would give approval only when a representative game was involved.

By disciplining such a high-profile player, the SRU, perhaps conscious of the "damage" caused by four of its players taking part in the Bermuda Rugby Union Festival before the World Cup last year, resulting in the virtual ending of John Rutherford's career, has reasserted its authority over its players.

The thinking behind what outwardly seems punitive measures is that the union wants to ensure that none of its rugby players contravenes any agreement relating to such issues as apartheid. But perhaps more important, it has in mind the concept of "the itinerant professional" that has become the label of many antipodeans who play their rugby in Europe.

Hastings, who has been capped 12 times for Scotland, will miss the McEwan's Inter-district match against the Anglo-Scots at Myreside.

Urge to compete draws Coe to indoor circuit

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Sebastian Coe's putative political career may take even longer to materialize, since a combination of Olympic disappointment and continued enthusiasm for training will probably prolong his involvement in international athletics until the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand in early 1990.

He said yesterday: "I wanted to see how I'd get back into training - I had four weeks off after the Olympics - and I'm really enjoying it. I've no set plans. I'll run four or five indoor races to get ready for the summer grand prix circuit. I'd probably call it a day at the end of next year if the Commonwealth wasn't so close (February). So I'll probably hang around for that."

Coe would probably have retired already, had he run his third Olympic Games, but he has never won a Commonwealth title. He missed 1978 in preference to the European championships, was injured in

1982 and withdrew, ill, from the 1986 800 metres final.

"I'll admit I've been short of racing in the last couple of years. But I was getting back last season. I just ran out of time and goodwill. As for the indoors, I need the races."

Coe's programme will probably be: Genoa on February 1; San Sebastian (where Coe emerged internationally, winning the European indoor 800 metres title in 1977) on February 10; Stuttgart two days later; The Hague on February 22, three days after the European championships on the same track, and Sindelfingen, West Germany, on February 26.

Although Coe is more likely to be sending a Christmas card to Conservative Central Office than to the British Amateur Athletic Board after they denied him the chance of defending his double 1,500 metres title, he rejected suggestions yesterday that he would opt out for Britain

again. "Evidently, if I was offered a place at the European indoor championships, I would have to consider it."

Similar reasons are bringing Said Aoutia scurrying to the indoor circuit, albeit the one in the United States. The Moroccan, who promised much in Seoul but ended with "only" a bronze medal in the 800 metres, will run five races on the North American grand prix circuit before returning to Europe for the world indoor championships in Budapest from March 3 to 5.

The highlight will probably be the Wanamaker Mile at the Millrose Games in Madison Square Garden, New York, on February 3, when Eamonn Coghlan, in his last indoor season, will be attempting a record eighth victory. Aoutia's other races will be 10 Fairfax (Abdi Bile's alma mater) on February 5, Meadowlands on February 10, Los Angeles on February 17, and the TAC championships in New York

Card concessions are 'not enough'

By Clive White

The possibility of some moderation in the Government's plan to introduce identity cards for football supporters did little yesterday to appease the football authorities who still cling to the hope that the Bill will not get through Parliament.

In response to a report in The Times that the Government is examining ways of ensuring that supporters are not driven away from football, the Football League said: "We welcome any move which might get the proposals watered down to some degree, to minimize the inconvenience and mitigate the harmful effect of the scheme." The Football Association, in describing the proposed changes as making "the best of the bad job", remained unconvinced that the scheme would achieve its desired effect of eradicating hooliganism from the game.

The League felt that the concessions mentioned did not go far enough. The possible exemption of children from the scheme, the League thought, merely begged the question: "Why just children?" Andy Williamson, a League official, said: "Why not old-

age pensioners, too, or season-ticket holders. There is no record of misbehaviour among them, either."

If the Bill is to become law, and judging by the public outcry and the concern of Conservative backbenchers, it is not a formality, then the League hopes that its introduction, which is planned for the spring of 1990, can be deferred. "Perhaps sufficient pressure can be asserted to get the effective date deferred on a continual basis," Williamson said. "If there is any lingering hope that this thing won't proceed then we've got to pursue that alternative."

Martin Edwards, the Manchester United chairman, who is vehemently opposed to identity cards, did at least welcome any alterations that might make it easier for the casual supporter to attend. United have a membership of 40,000 in their own scheme but this does not exclude non-members from attending games. He disagreed with the League that they would have problems processing thousands of temporary members on the day of a game. "We would be geared up to deal with that," he said.

Moynihan heads off a rebellion

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, appeared last night to have calmed some of the fears of Conservative MPs over the Government's plan to introduce a national football membership scheme by the spring of 1990.

But it was clear, after he had addressed a joint meeting of the Conservative backbench sports and environment committees, that the Government still faces a substantial rebellion over the issue when the Bill introducing the scheme comes before the Commons early next year.

Government whips, worried by indications of a revolt, ensured that supporters of the plan attended last night's meeting. There was a view that the opponents had made the running in recent days. He confirmed, as The Times reported yesterday, that he is looking at ways of ensuring that the casual supporter is not driven from football. The proposals being considered include allowing people to register on the morning of a match, and making exemptions for children and the disabled.

Special arrangements are being considered for executive boxes under which cards would be issued to guests by their hosts, who would then be responsible if they misbehaved.

But he appeared to have been less successful in beating off opposition from those opposed to the scheme in principle.

Sir Eldon Griffiths, MP for Bury St Edmunds and parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation, expressed astonishment that the Government had not consulted the federation. Asked what was his main reservation, he said: "Enforcement."

Sir Rhodes Boyson, from the right of the party, opposed the scheme as singling out the football supporter for special treatment. From the left, Robert Hicks said it was a "sledgehammer to crack a nut".

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Olympians to keep to themselves

By Peter Bills

The decision of the British Olympic Association (BOA) not to seek future representation on the other main bodies of British sport has set back plans for a single body to administer sport in Britain in the future.

The news, announced yesterday by the BOA after its monthly meeting, means that the ideal of a single structure to replace the three existing organizations, the BOA, the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) and the Sports Council, is much less likely.

The BOA described its decision as "by far the most businesslike approach" open to it. Dick Palmer, the secretary, said: "We feel that the BOA will grow in stature rather than decrease by meeting separately with these bodies rather than just staying on their committees. It is simply a case of making better use of everyone's time."

However, Peter Lawson, general secretary of the CCPR, defended his vision of a single body for British sport. "I hope that what Dick Palmer is saying does not preclude that ideal. Although in a sense I think he is probably right in thinking the BOA has a specific job to do, I always hoped that there could eventually be a general merging into one body with three divisions to take sport forward."

Mary Fitzhenry, for the Sports Council, said it would be sad if the BOA did not have an input into British sport as a whole. She welcomed the idea of regular meetings. "There is no doubt they have expertise in certain areas we would want to tap into," she said.

Brundle at Brabham

Martin Brundle has joined the Brabham Formula One team for next season after winning the world sports car championship for TWR Jaguar with seven victories and minor placings in his 16 other races. Brundle has been in 54 grand prix with the Tyrrell and Zakspeed teams and said: "I'm delighted to be with Brabham and back in grand prix racing. I knew I could win the title for Jaguar and land a good Formula One ride for '89. The move paid off."

Irish home The Football Association of Ireland has bought Dalymount Park in Dublin, "spiritual home" of Irish football, for £600,000 from Bohemians, the League of Ireland club.

Vote for Steeb

Gothenburg (AFP) - Carl-Uwe Steeb will be West Germany's second singles player alongside Boris Becker for the Davis Cup final against Sweden starting tomorrow.

Snowball dies Elizabeth Alexandra (Betty) Snowball, who died at Colwall, Worcestershire, on Tuesday, aged 82, is widely regarded as England's best woman wicketkeeper after 10 Tests in the 1930s, when she also formed an opening partnership with Myrtle MacLagan.

Drugs denial Canberra (Reuters) - Lyn Jones, the head weightlifting coach at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), denied allegations he has ever given anabolic steroids to competitors.

Tulasne call

Perth (AP) - Henri Leconte has withdrawn from the Hopman Cup here on December 28 with an ankle injury and is replaced by Thierry Tulasne, another Frenchman.

Vessey move

Rupert Vessey, the wing who captained Oxford University to victory in last week's rugby union University match, has joined Northampton.

Leconte: withdraws

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